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LIRE 4000
EURO 2,07*

PKNA #41

Walt Disney MAGAZINES

PAPERINIK NEW ADVENTURES

AGDY DAYS

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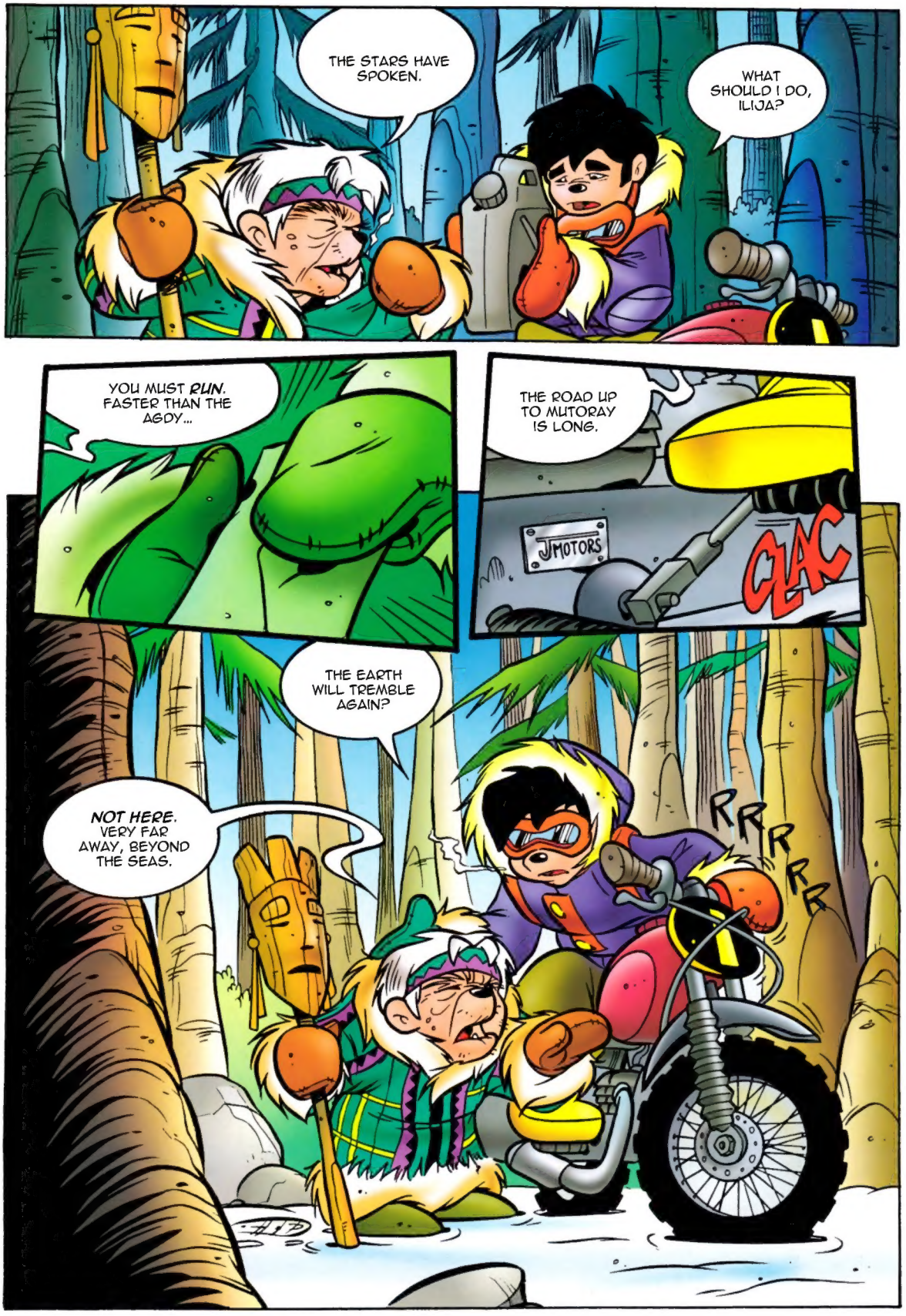
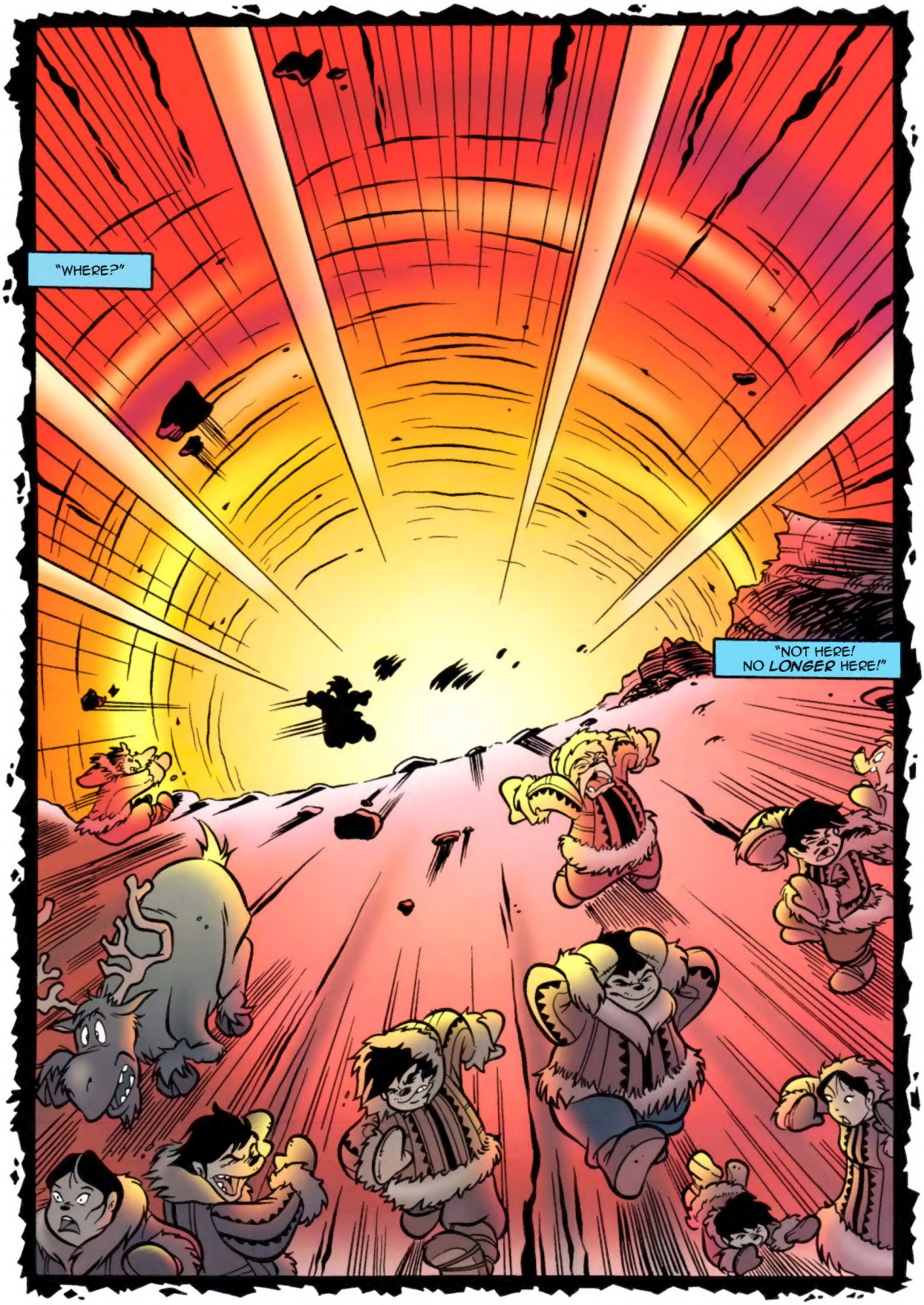
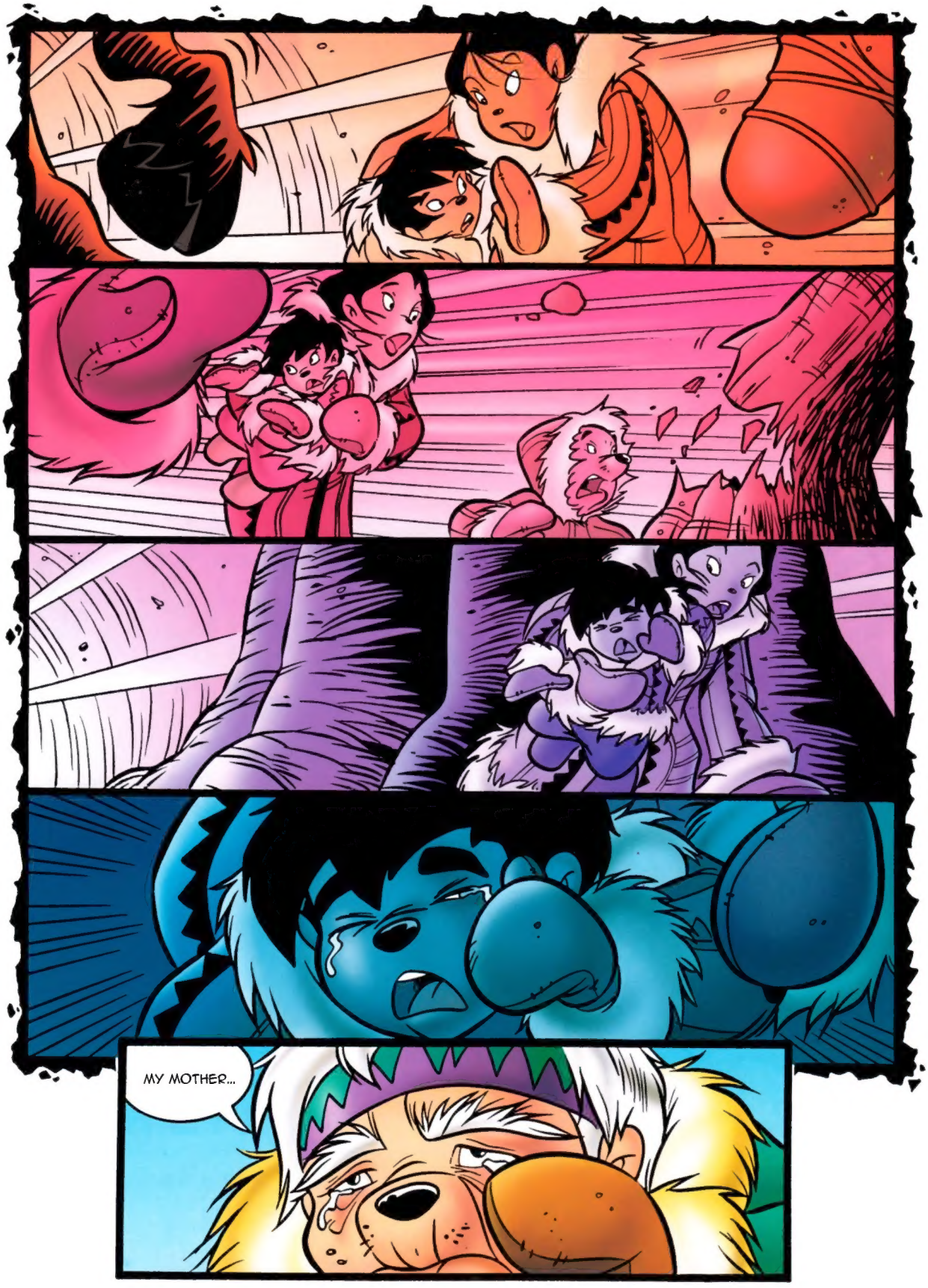
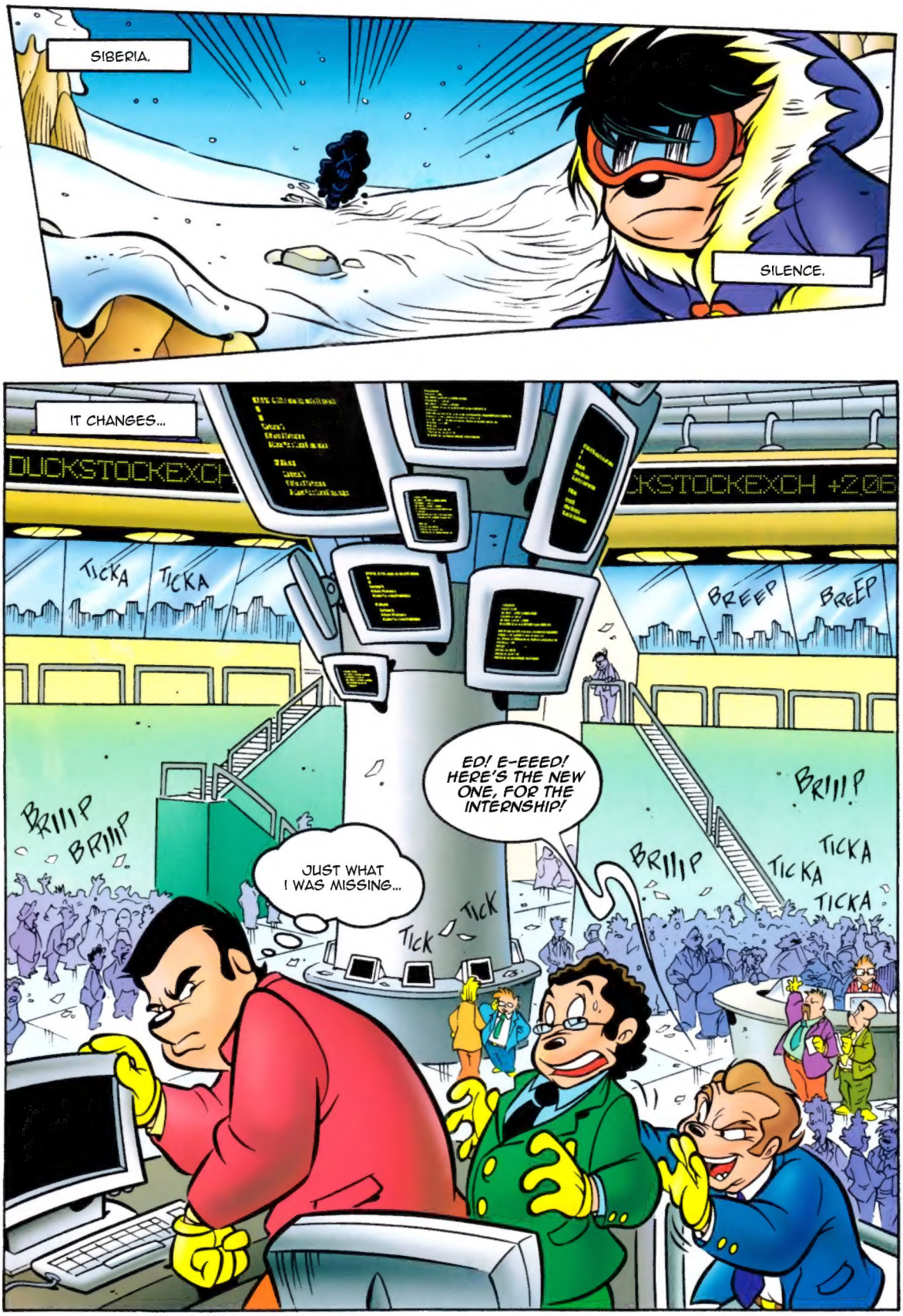
I-PKNA-41

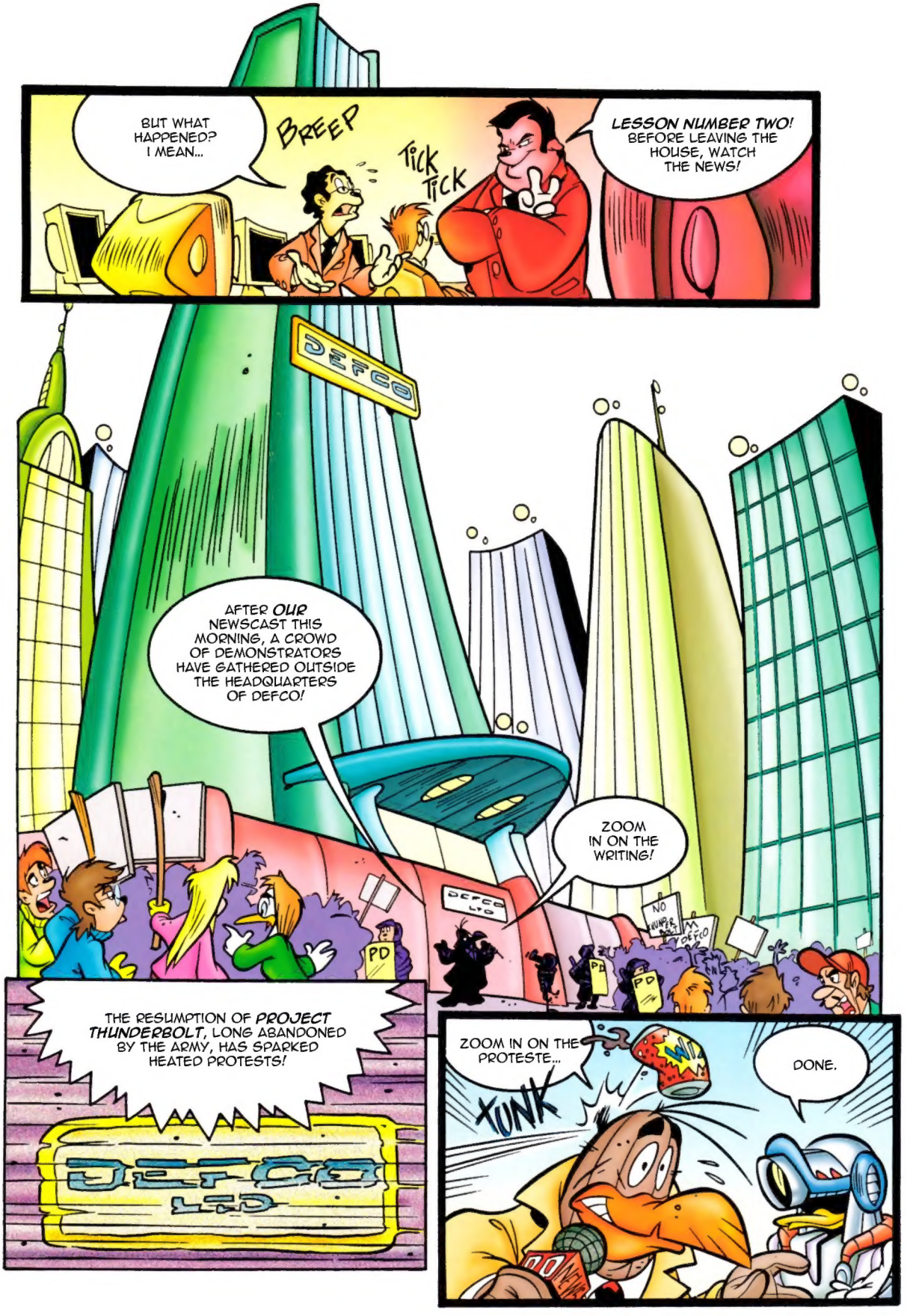

THE STARS HAVE SPOKEN.
WHAT SHOULD I DO, ILIJA?
YOU MUST RUN. FASTER THAN THE AGOY...
THE ROAD UP TO MUTORAY IS LONG.
J MOTORS
CLAC
THE EARTH WILL TREMBLE AGAIN?
NOT HERE. VERY FAR AWAY, BEYOND THE SEAS.
RRRRR

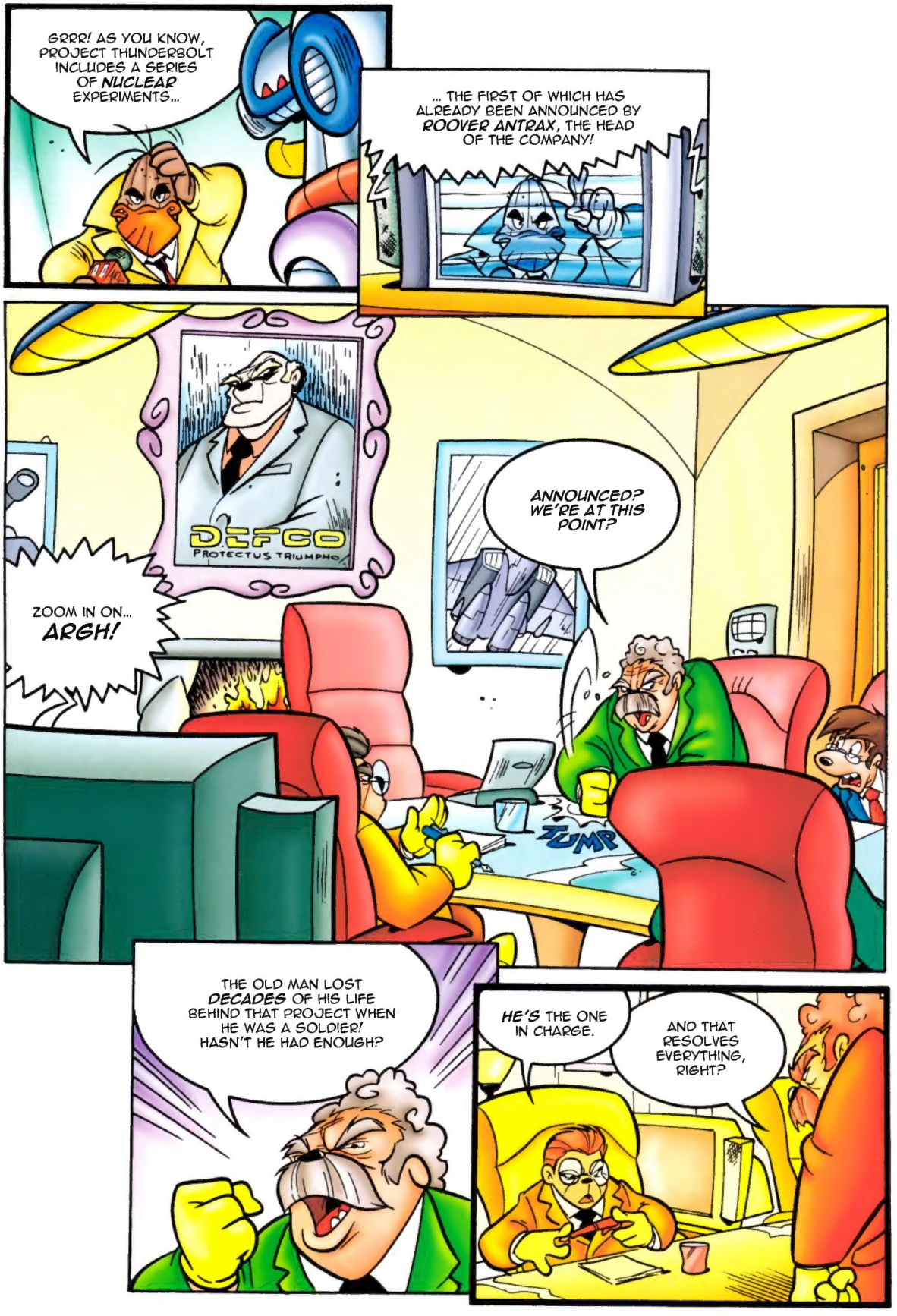

"WHERE?"
"NOT HERE! NO LONGER HERE!"

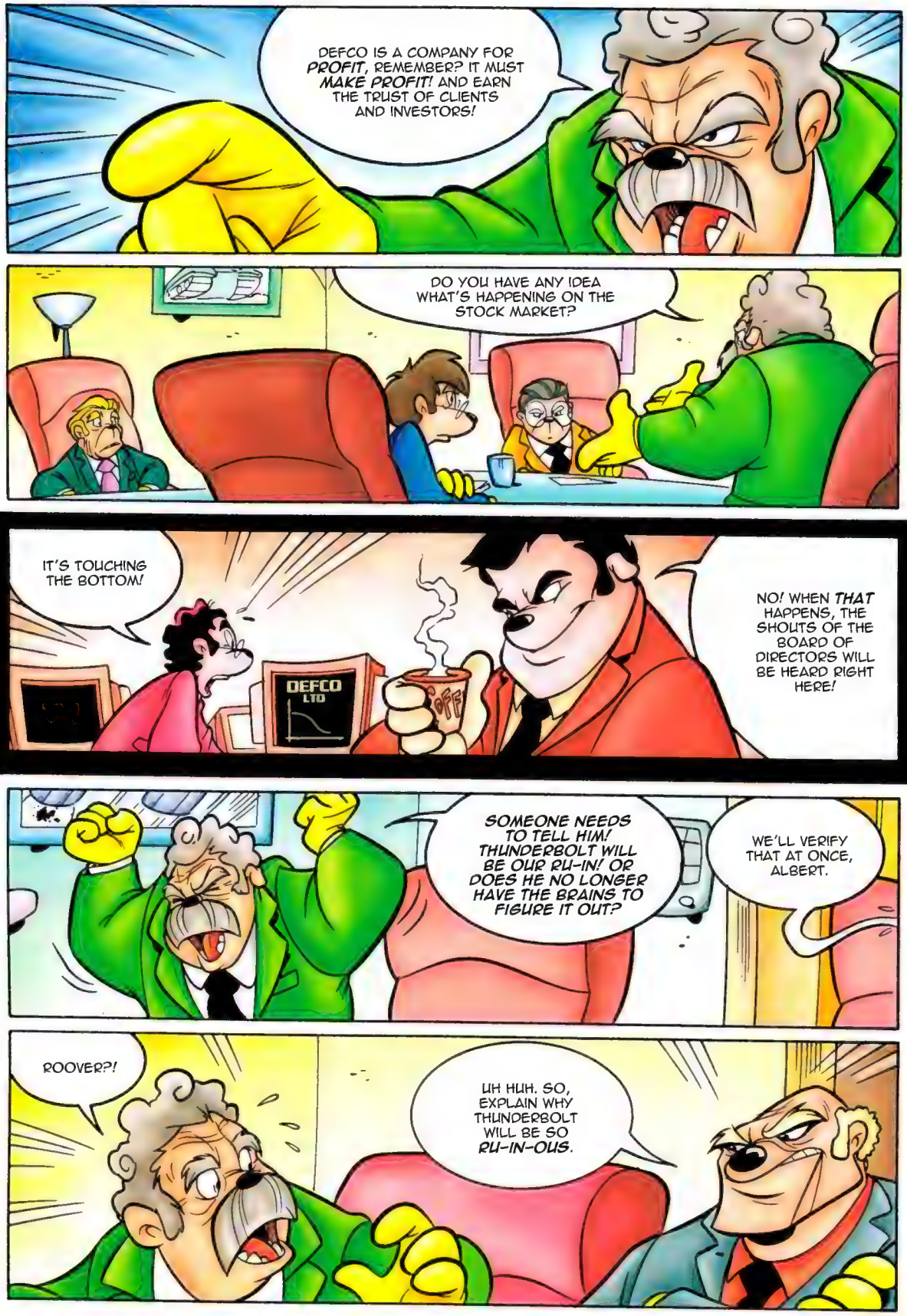

MY MOTHER...


SIBERIA.
SILENCE.
IT CHANGES...
DUCKSTOCKEXCH
CKSTOCKEXCH +2.05
TICKA TICKA
BREEP BREEP
BRIIIP BRIIIP
BRIIIP
TICKA
TICK KA
TICKA
TICK TICK
ED! E-EEED! HERE'S THE NEW ONE, FOR THE INTERNSHIP!
JUST WHAT I WAS MISSING...

PLEASURE, RONNIE PONTI.
IT'S YOUR FIRST DAY ON THE STOCK MARKET, SONNY?
YES, A GREAT DAY, RIGHT? IT'S RISING BY ONE HUNDRED POINTS!
DUCKSTOCKEXCH
+2,06
YOU'RE TOO OPTIMISTIC, BOY. LOOK HERE.
DEFCO LTD
A SHARE THAT'S DECREASING... STRANGE!
VERY. BUT THIS IS INTERESTING, NOT THE REST!
DOESN'T DEFCO W-WORK FOR THE DEFENSE?
YEAH! NEW MATERIALS, ARMORED VEHICLES, BULLETPROOF VESTS... ALL THE STUFF TO NOT GET INJURED! BUT HERE IT'S NOT NEEDED!
LESSON NUMBER ONE! THE MARKET WILL TAKE YOU OUT EVEN IF YOU'RE ARMORED!
R-RECEIVED!


BUT WHAT HAPPENED? I MEAN...
BREEP
TICK TICK
LESSON NUMBER TWO! BEFORE LEAVING THE HOUSE, WATCH THE NEWS!
DEFCO
AFTER OUR NEWSCAST THIS MORNING, A CROWD OF DEMONSTRATORS HAVE GATHERED OUTSIDE THE HEADQUARTERS OF DEFCO!
ZOOM IN ON THE WRITING!
PD
THE RESUMPTION OF PROJECT THUNDERBOLT, LONG ABANDONED BY THE ARMY, HAS SPARKED HEATED PROTESTS!
DEFCO LTD
ZOOM IN ON THE PROTESTE...
KUNK
DONE.


GRRR! AS YOU KNOW, PROJECT THUNDERBOLT INCLUDES A SERIES OF NUCLEAR EXPERIMENTS...
... THE FIRST OF WHICH HAS ALREADY BEEN ANNOUNCED BY ROOVER ANTRAX, THE HEAD OF THE COMPANY!
DIFCO
PROTECTUS TRIUMPHO
ANNOUNCED? WE'RE AT THIS POINT?
ZOOM IN ON... ARGH!
TUMP
THE OLD MAN LOST DECADES OF HIS LIFE BEHIND THAT PROJECT WHEN HE WAS A SOLDIER! HASN'T HE HAD ENOUGH?
HE'S THE ONE IN CHARGE.
AND THAT RESOLVES EVERYTHING, RIGHT?

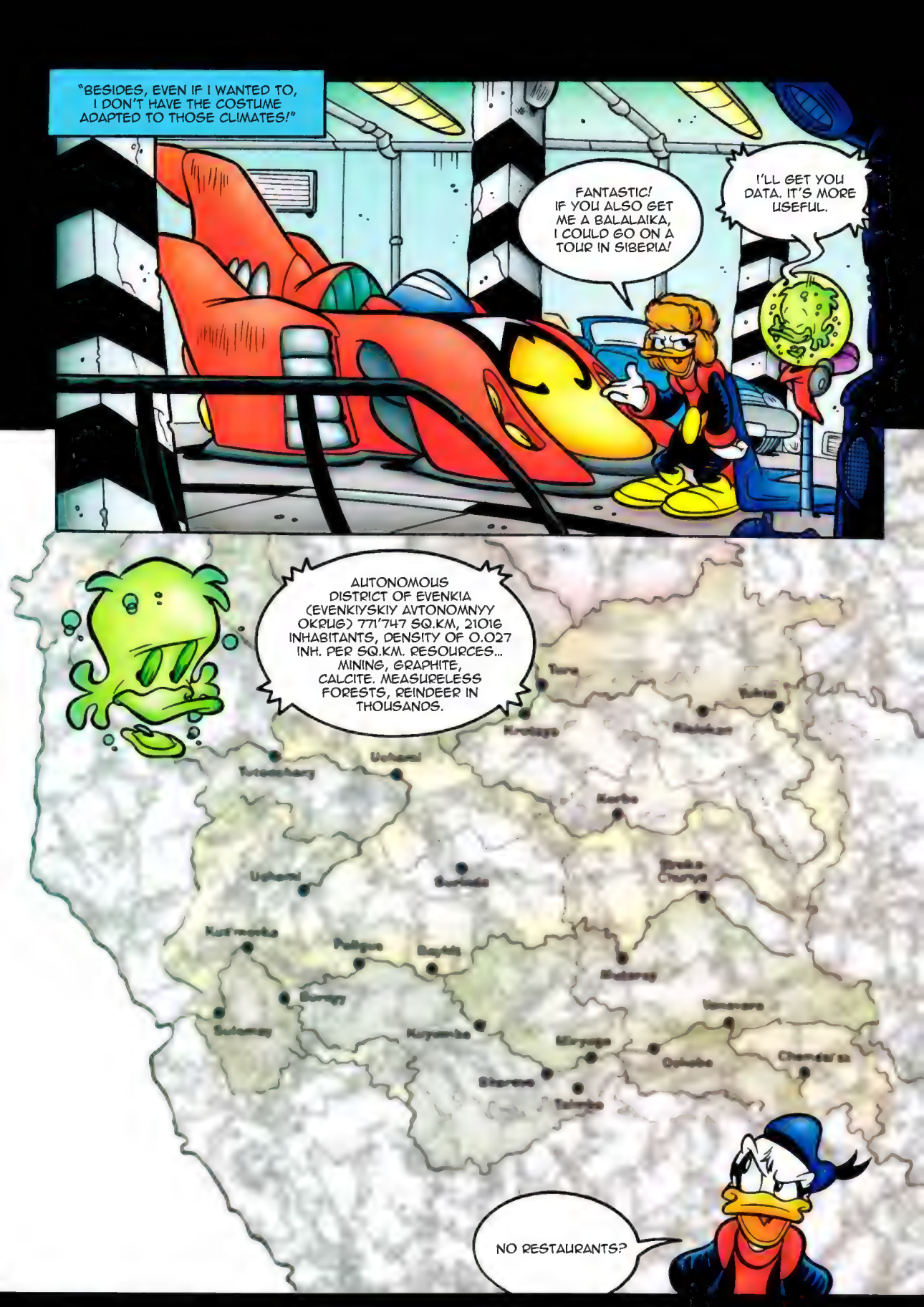

DEFCO IS A COMPANY FOR *PROFIT*, REMEMBER? IT MUST *MAKE PROFIT!* AND EARN THE TRUST OF CLIENTS AND INVESTORS!
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT'S HAPPENING ON THE STOCK MARKET?
IT'S TOUCHING THE BOTTOM!
DEFCO LTD
NO! WHEN *THAT* HAPPENS, THE SHOUTS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL BE HEARD RIGHT HERE!
SOMEONE NEEDS TO TELL HIM! THUNDERBOLT WILL BE OUR RU-IN! OR DOES HE NO LONGER HAVE THE BRAINS TO FIGURE IT OUT?
WE'LL VERIFY THAT AT ONCE, ALBERT.
ROOVER?!
UH HUH. SO, EXPLAIN WHY THUNDERBOLT WILL BE SO *RU-IN-OUS*.

IT'S OLD STUFF, RIGHT?
A BIT LIKE ME AND YOU.
IN SHORT, THAT CYCLE OF EXPERIMENTS WAS A CYCLE OF FAILURES, ROOVER!
"YOU WEREN'T PENSIONED TEN YEARS IN ADVANCE FOR SPECIAL MERITS, I BELIEVE!"
I WAS PURELY THROWN OUT. IT HAPPENS TO EVERYONE, SOONER OR LATER...
BY THE WAY... THERE'S THE DOOR, ALBERT.

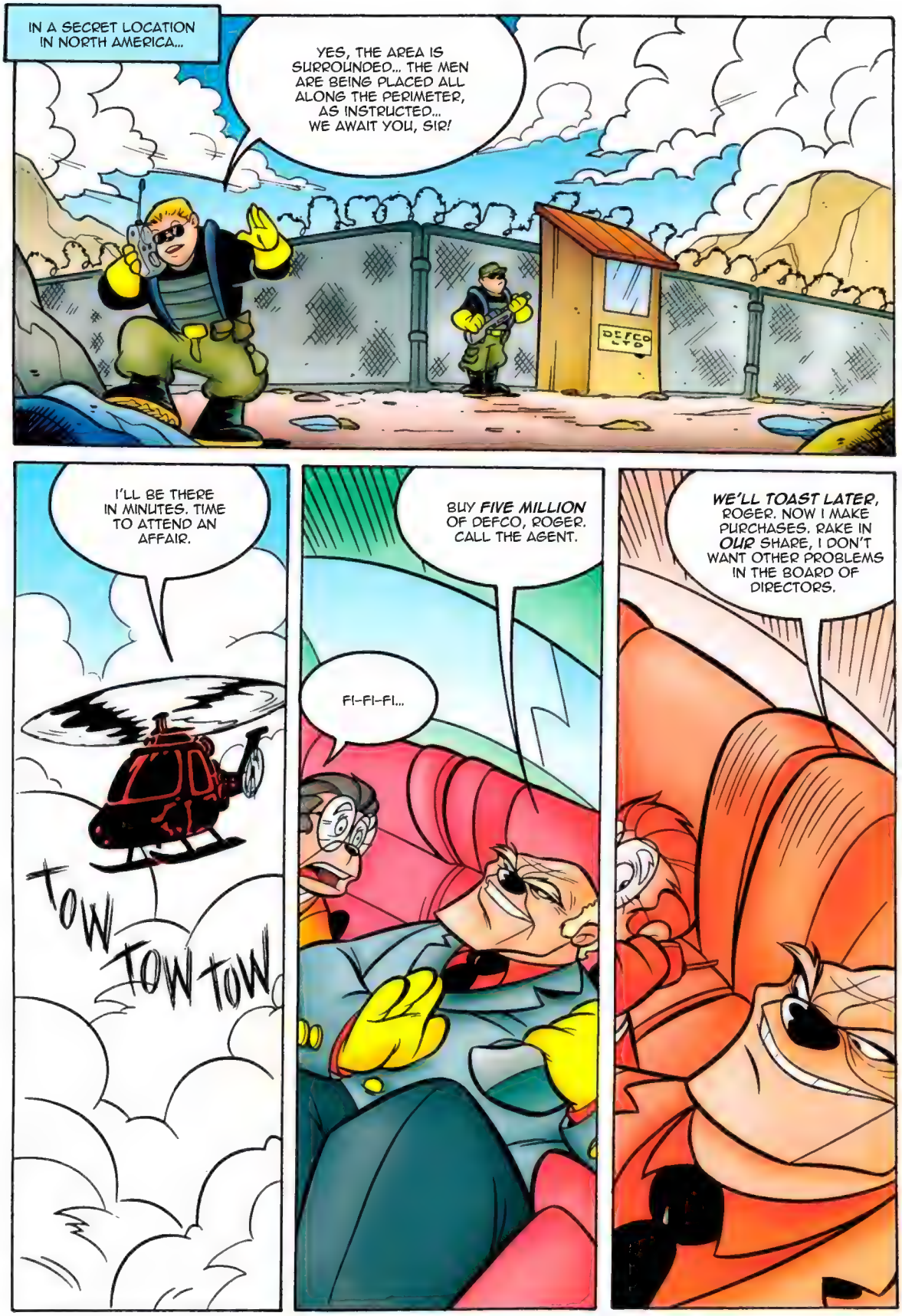
LATER...
I URGE EVERYONE TO REMEMBER THAT THIS IS A SOUND, SMILING, TRANQUILIZING PRESS CONFERENCE!
DO YOU CONFIRM THAT ONLY ONE EXPERIMENT WILL BE PERFORMED, MR. ROOVER?
DEFCO LTD
I DO. AND I REPEAT THAT THERE WON'T BE THE SLIGHTEST SPILL OF RADIOACTIVE ELEMENTS!
AH HA. AND PERHAPS EVERYTHING WON'T GO BOOM EITHER, EH?
OH NO... THERE WILL BE A BIG, VERY BIG BOOM! BUT NO ONE WILL GET HURT! DEFCO HAS ALWAYS WORKED FOR THIS.
AND YOU THINK THOSE OUT THERE WILL SWALLOW THAT?
IT DEPENDS ON WHO PREPARES THE DRINKS. THE GENERAL PUBLIC LOVES TO BE MOLLIFIED. MOLLIFY THEM.

"THE GENERAL PUBLIC LOVES TO BE INFORMED, ROOVER. WE'LL INFORM THEM."
DEFCO!
NO TO EXPERIMENTS!
NO DEFCO
DE KO
PLEEEASE! LET ME PASS! THHHANKS!
OUT WITH ROOVER!
BEEP
MAIL!
FOR WHO?
EVERETT DUCKLAIR! I'LL PUT IT...
... HERE?!
SWAP

WHERE'S IT FROM?
TRUB TRUB
MUTORAY, EASTERN SIBERIA! I HAVE SOMETHING IN MEMORY OF THOSE PLACES.
SO DO I. SNOW, COLD, ICE. ICE, COLD, SNOW. IT'S BETTER HERE.
MUTORAY... THERE'S A LINK TO THE NEW MATERIALS SUBROUTINE. INTERESTING. THE LETTER ONLY SAYS "AGDY DAYS"!
THE SENDER... ILIJA ONKOUL... IT'S LINKED TO TOP PRIORITY!
DON'T START, EH? I SAID THAT IT'S BETTER HERE!
I AM LINKED TO COMFORTABLE-TRIP-ON-SUNNY-BEACH.

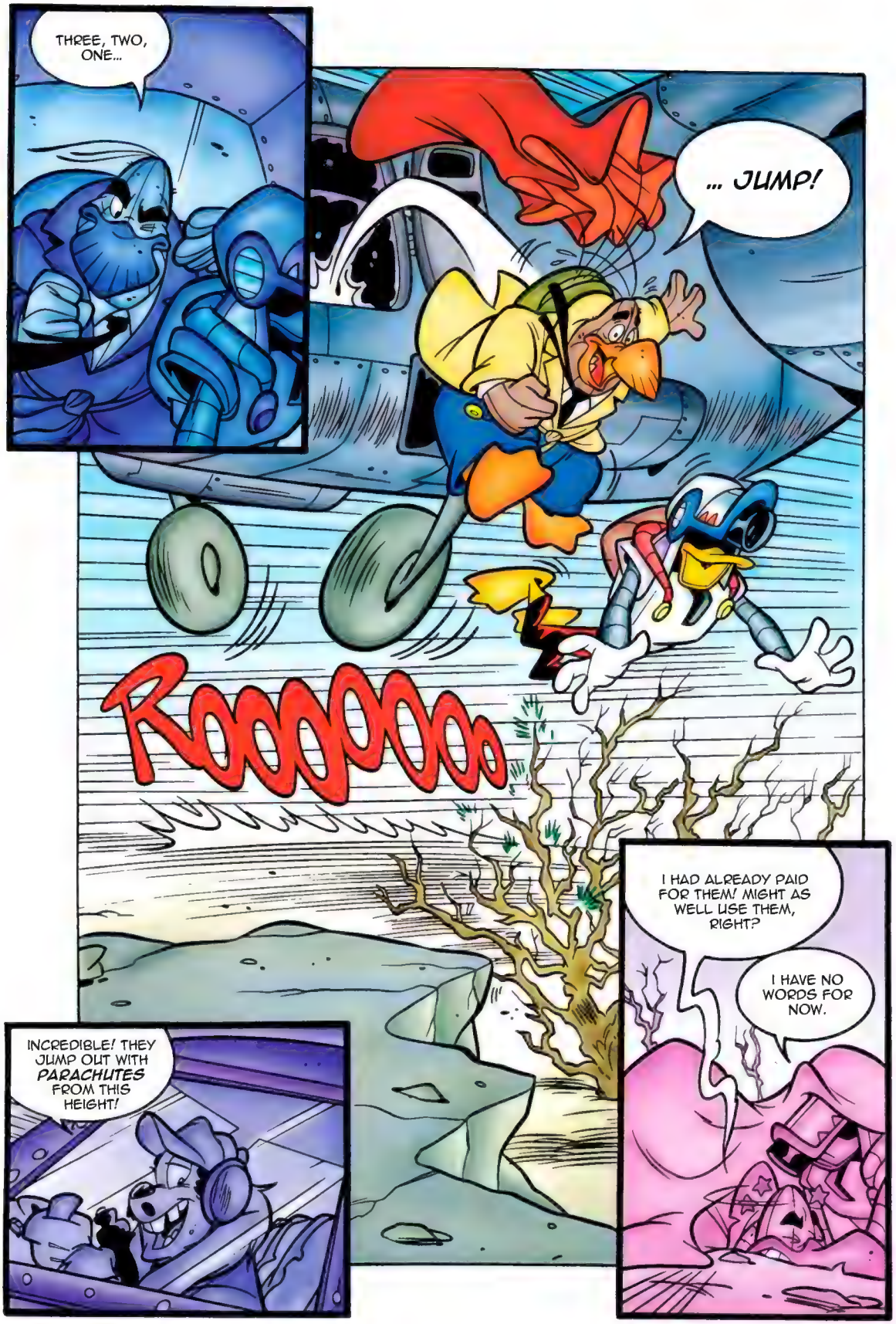

"BESIDES, EVEN IF I WANTED TO, I DON'T HAVE THE COSTUME ADAPTED TO THOSE CLIMATES!"
FANTASTIC! IF YOU ALSO GET ME A BALALAIKA, I COULD GO ON A TOUR IN SIBERIA!
I'LL GET YOU DATA. IT'S MORE USEFUL.
AUTONOMOUS DISTRICT OF EVENKIA (EVENKIYSKIY AVTONOMNYY OKRUG) 771'747 SQ.KM, 21016 INHABITANTS, DENSITY OF 0.027 INH. PER SQ.KM. RESOURCES... MINING, GRAPHITE, CALCITE. MEASURELESS FORESTS, REINDEER IN THOUSANDS.
NO RESTAURANTS?

NO RESTAURANTS. THE EVENKS PREFER TO FEED OF ANCIENT TRADITIONS CONSTANTLY RENEWED BY THE SHAMANS, FIGURES WHO STILL HAVE A FORMIDABLE WEIGHT IN THOSE POPULATIONS.
OKAY. IS THE TANK FULL?
CERTAINLY. I WARN YOU THAT THERE'S AN ADDITIVE IN THE FUEL. SIBERIA ISN'T FAR AWAY IN DIRECT DISTANCE, BUT...
VRRR
"... THAT'S NOT A GOOD REASON FOR WASTING TIME!"
S-S-SO YOU SAY?

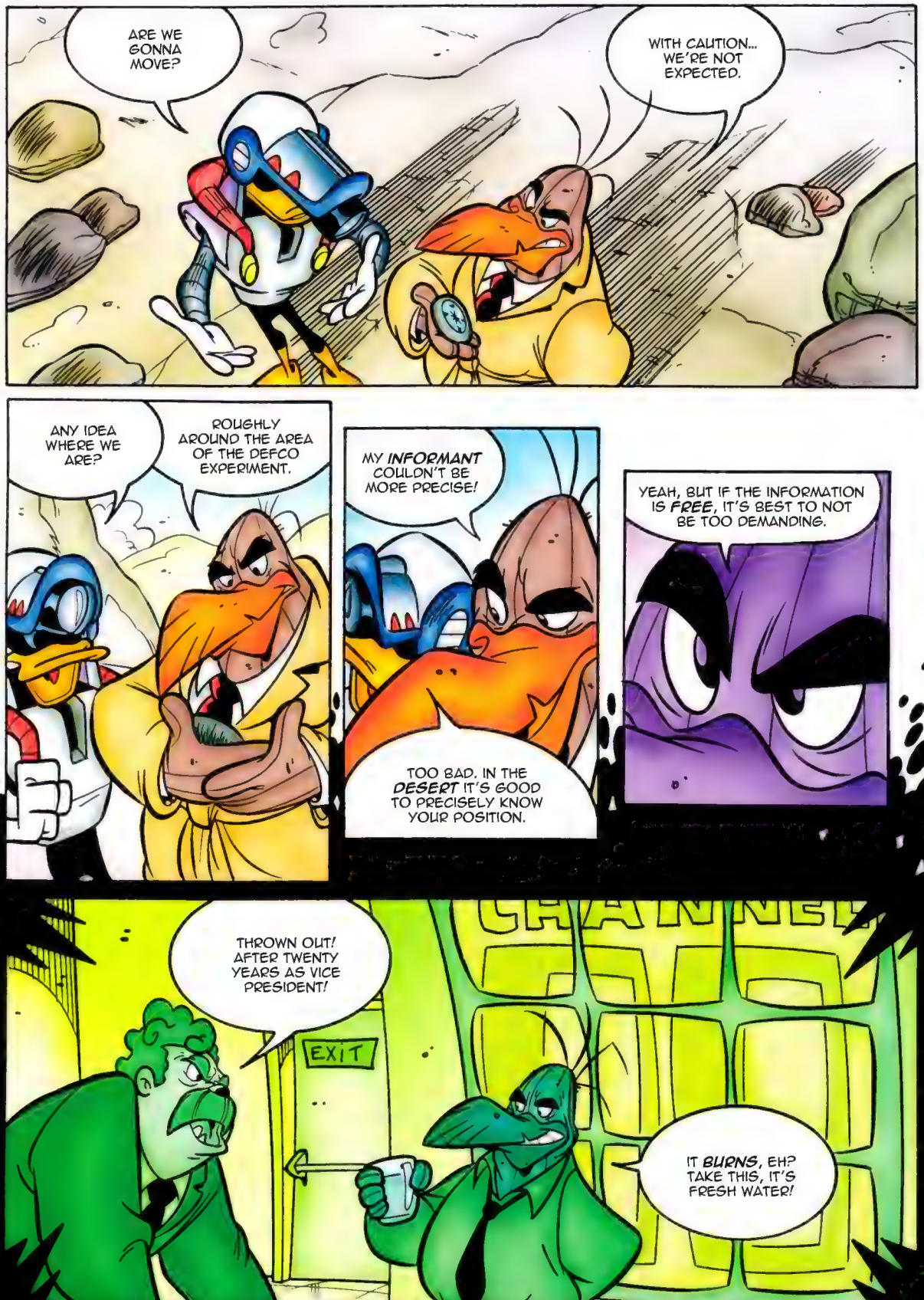

IN A SECRET LOCATION IN NORTH AMERICA...
YES, THE AREA IS SURROUNDED... THE MEN ARE BEING PLACED ALL ALONG THE PERIMETER, AS INSTRUCTED... WE AWAIT YOU, SIR!
DEFCO LTD
I'LL BE THERE IN MINUTES. TIME TO ATTEND AN AFFAIR.
TOW TOW TOW
BUY FIVE MILLION OF DEFCO, ROGER. CALL THE AGENT.
FI-FI-FI...
WE'LL TOAST LATER, ROGER. NOW I MAKE PURCHASES. RAKE IN OUR SHARE, I DON'T WANT OTHER PROBLEMS IN THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

THE ABSOLUTE MAJORITY IS THE LEAST WE SHOULD HAVE, WHEN DEALING WITH THAT KIND OF AFFAIRS.
TOW/ TOW/ TOW
AH, ROGER... MAKE SURE THE ORDER IS FRACTIONATED. I DON'T WANT TO CREATE COLLAPSES IN THE STOCK MARKET. NOT YET.
STRONG HANDS ON DEFCO!
W-WHAT'S GOING ON?
HMM... TOO EARLY TO TELL.
DEFCO LTD
DEFCO LTD
AND WHAT DO WE DO? OTHERS ARE BUYING! THE SHARE IS GOING UP!
DO YOU KNOW THE LAW OF GRAVITY, RONNIE?
WHAT GOES UP, SOONER OR LATER, COMES BACK DOWN! ALMOST ALWAYS...

WHEN I ASKED YOU TO FLY LOW, I DIDN'T MEAN *THAT* LOW!
ROOOOOO
THIS AIRPLANE USUALLY SPREADS HERBICIDE, BOSS. BESIDES, FOR TEN DOLLARS...
TEN MORE IF YOU LAND OVER THAT BARBED WIRE.
WE DIDN'T TALK ABOUT LANDING, BOSS. THAT TAKES TIME.
BUT I CAN SLOW DOWN...
WHY, ARE WE MOVING?
Rooo
THERE ARE SOME BUSHES DOWN THERE, BOSS. AND A LITTLE FURTHER, PEOPLE. *ARMED!*
O-OKAY! SLOW DOWN!


THREE, TWO, ONE...
... JUMP!
Roooooo
I HAD ALREADY PAID FOR THEM! MIGHT AS WELL USE THEM, RIGHT?
I HAVE NO WORDS FOR NOW.
INCREDIBLE! THEY JUMP OUT WITH PARACHUTES FROM THIS HEIGHT!

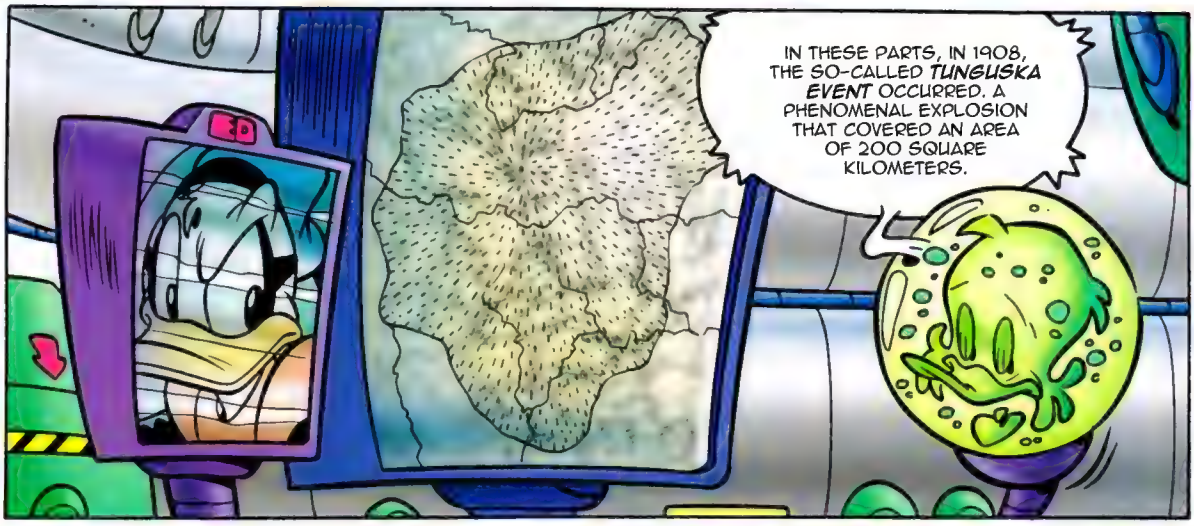
AN... AIRPLANE, YES... FLYING AT LOW ALTITUDE, BUT IT HAS TURNED AWAY FROM THE ZONE.
I SAID THAT THE AREA NEEDS TO BE CLE-AN!
CHECK IT IMMEDIATELY! SOON THERE'LL BE NO MORE TIME!
TOW TOW TOW
FIFTY-SIX DOLLARS! AND STILL RISING!
HMM... ALRIGHT, I FOLLOW... SOON THERE'LL BE NO MORE TIME.
DEFCO 40000
FORTY THOUSAND DEFCO. CROSS YOUR FINGERS.

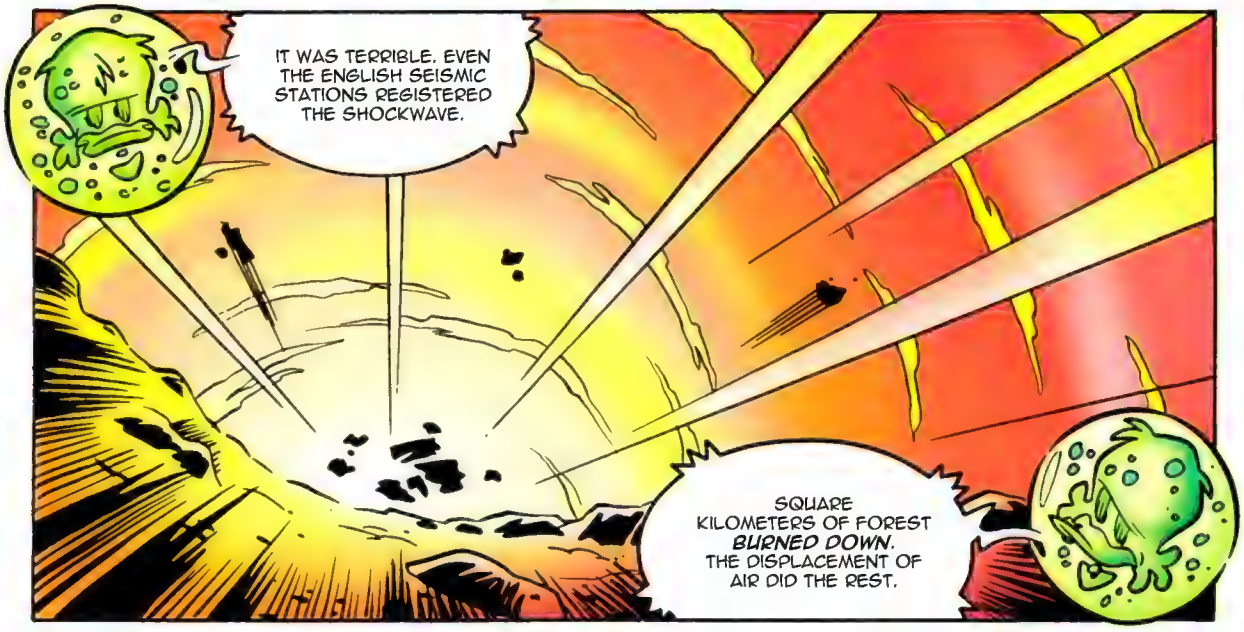

ARE WE GONNA MOVE?
WITH CAUTION... WE'RE NOT EXPECTED.
ANY IDEA WHERE WE ARE?
ROUGHLY AROUND THE AREA OF THE DEFCO EXPERIMENT.
MY INFORMANT COULDN'T BE MORE PRECISE!
TOO BAD. IN THE DESERT IT'S GOOD TO PRECISELY KNOW YOUR POSITION.
YEAH, BUT IF THE INFORMATION IS FREE, IT'S BEST TO NOT BE TOO DEMANDING.
THROWN OUT! AFTER TWENTY YEARS AS VICE PRESIDENT!
EXIT
IT BURNS, EH? TAKE THIS, IT'S FRESH WATER!

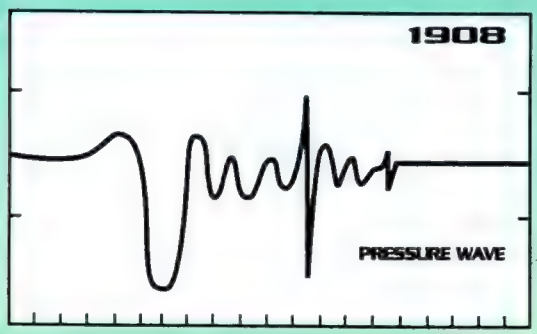
AND ALL FOR JUST SAYING THE TRUTH!
"JUST"?! HA HA!
THE TRUTH IS A RAZOR, BUT IT'S ENOUGH TO HAVE IT ON THE SIDE OF THE HANDLE AND LET ME KNOW. TELL ME... WHAT IS THUNDERBOLT?
WHAT IT WAS, I'D SAY. THE PROJECT GOES BACK DECADES AGO. ROOVER ASKED FOR FINANCING TO THE DEFENSE AND HE GOT IT!
"HE ASKED FOR MEN AND RESOURCES AND HE GOT IT. HE ASKED FOR TIME, A LOT OF TIME AND HE GOT IT... BUT NEVER ANY RESULTS, NEVER! DOZENS OF ATTEMPTS, NO RESULTS."

"BE MORE PRECISE... WHAT WAS ROOVER LOOKING FOR, WHAT IS HE STILL LOOKING FOR?"
"A NEW MATERIAL, IMPOSSIBLE TO OBTAIN IF NOT EXPLOITING TEMPERATURES AND UNNATURAL PRESSURES."
A MATERIAL THAT WOULD CHANGE THE TIDE OF ANY WAR.
H-HOW F-FAR, ONE?
WAAAAAA
NOT MUCH. YOU'RE ALREADY FLYING OVER CHINA. SOON YOU'LL BE AMONG THE EVENKS...
H-H-HURRAY! I LOVE MEETING NEW PEOPLE!

ACTUALLY, THE EVENKS ARE *OLD* PEOPLE. AND I THINK YOU'LL END UP FEELING *AT HOME* AMONG THEM.
HAVE YOU EVER HEARD THE SONGS OF THE *AMERICAN* INDIANS?
Y-YES. LOVELY.
LISTEN TO THIS, THEN.
WHAT COMES TO MIND?
A TIPI. BOWS AND ARROWS.
THEY ARE TUNGUS SONGS, HOWEVER. THE EVENKS AND OTHER POPULATIONS OF SIBERIA MUST HAVE TRAVELED A LOT, UNDER MANY SKIES.


IN THESE PARTS, IN 1908, THE SO-CALLED *TUNGUSKA EVENT* OCCURRED. A PHENOMENAL EXPLOSION THAT COVERED AN AREA OF 200 SQUARE KILOMETERS.


IT WAS TERRIBLE. EVEN THE ENGLISH SEISMIC STATIONS REGISTERED THE SHOCKWAVE.
SQUARE KILOMETERS OF FOREST *BURNED DOWN*. THE DISPLACEMENT OF AIR DID THE REST.


1908
PRESSURE WAVE

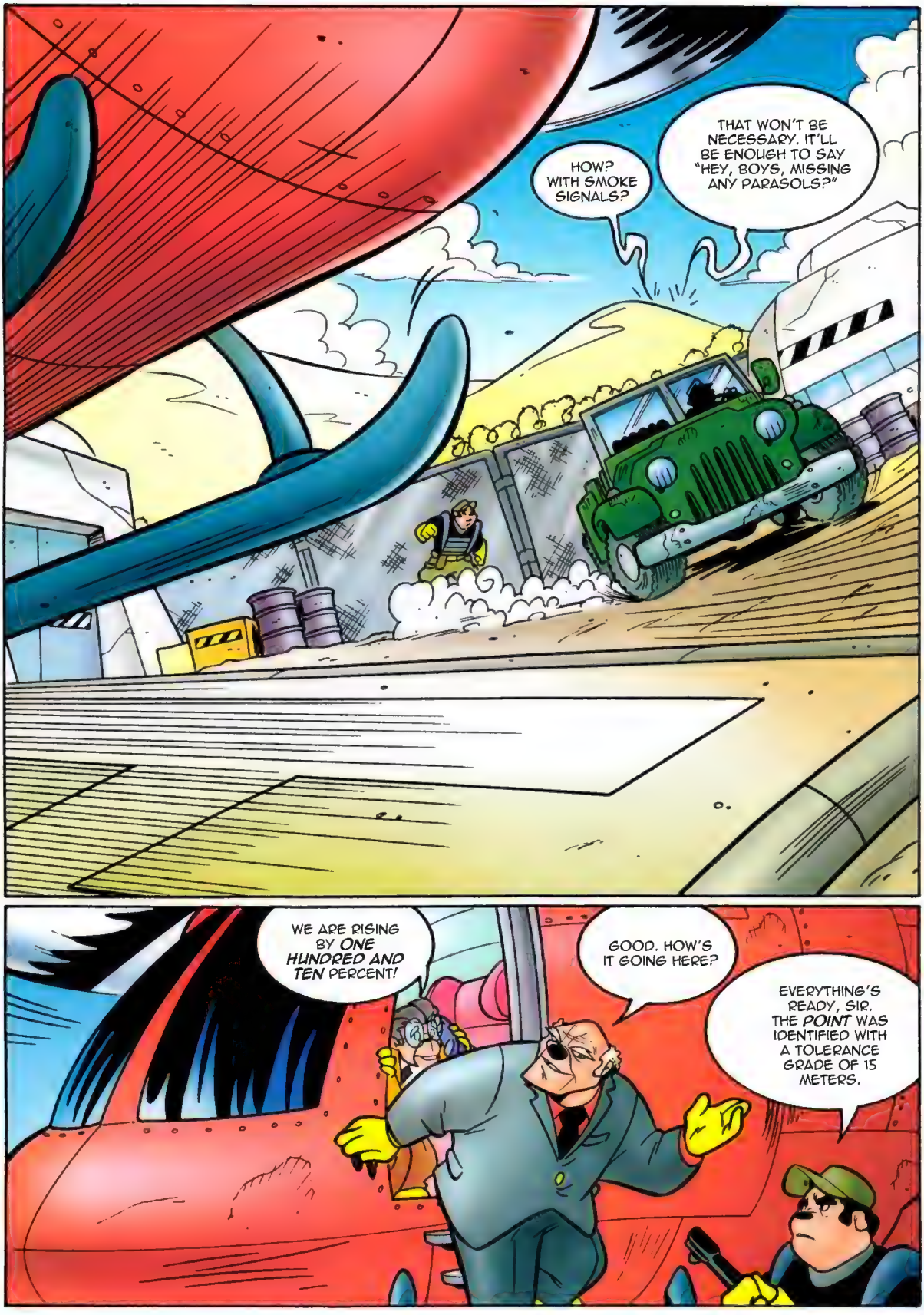
DEFCO
LTD

UP, THEN DOWN, THEN MUCH MORE UP... THE GRAPH ISN'T VERY CLEAR.
WHEN TALKING ABOUT MONEY, NO ONE PAYS ATTENTION TO THE GRAMMAR.

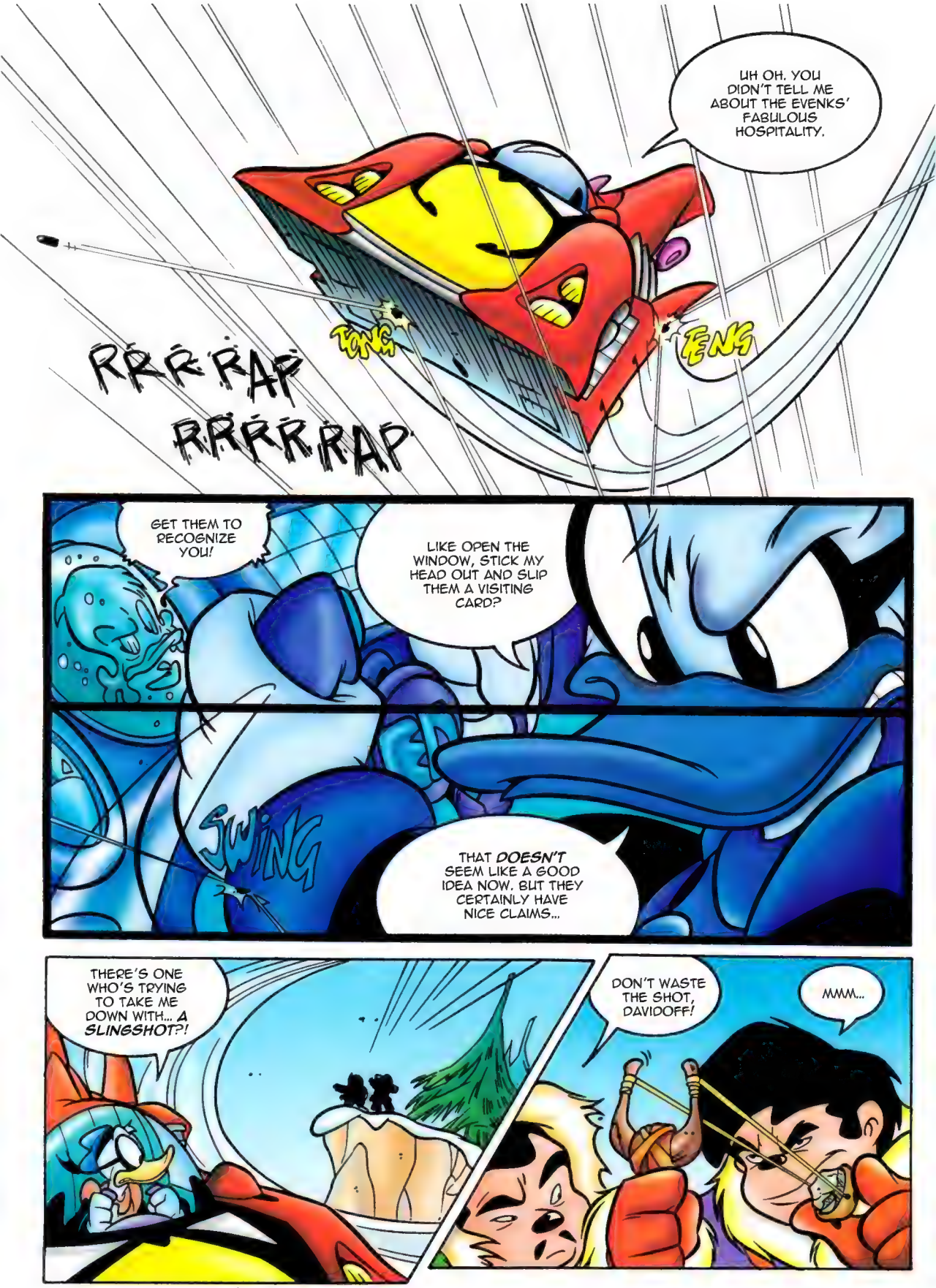
THIS IS A WELL AND GOOD INCREASE.
HOW LONG WILL IT LAST?

I DON'T KNOW. BUT I KNOW WE'LL SELL IT RIGHT BEFORE THE END.

A NOT SO BAD BEACH. I DON'T SEE ANY PARASOLS, HOWEVER.
HUH, WHAT A PRICELESS JOKE! HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT OF TRYING CABARET? HAVE YOU EVER...
... THOUG... GLAKT!
AND YOU THOUGHT THAT A NUCLEAR EXPERIMENT WOULD SOON TAKE PLACE HERE?
LET GO.
YES, I THOUGHT ABOUT IT.
AND IF WE DON'T FIND AN INTERESTING PLACE SOON, I'LL GET THEIR ATTENTION.

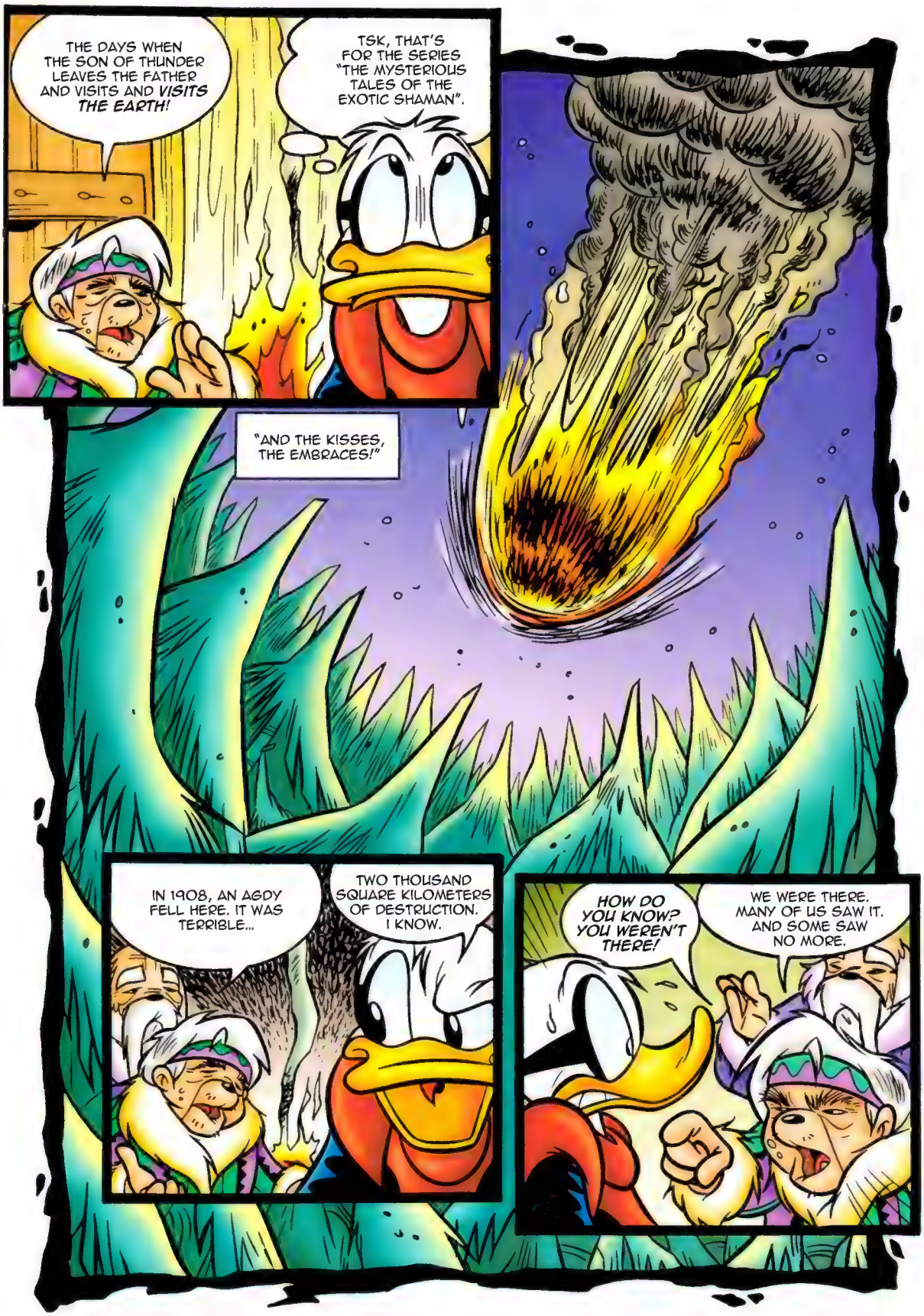

HOW? WITH SMOKE SIGNALS?
THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY. IT'LL BE ENOUGH TO SAY "HEY, BOYS, MISSING ANY PARASOLS?"
WE ARE RISING BY ONE HUNDRED AND TEN PERCENT!
GOOD. HOW'S IT GOING HERE?
EVERYTHING'S READY, SIR. THE POINT WAS IDENTIFIED WITH A TOLERANCE GRADE OF 15 METERS.

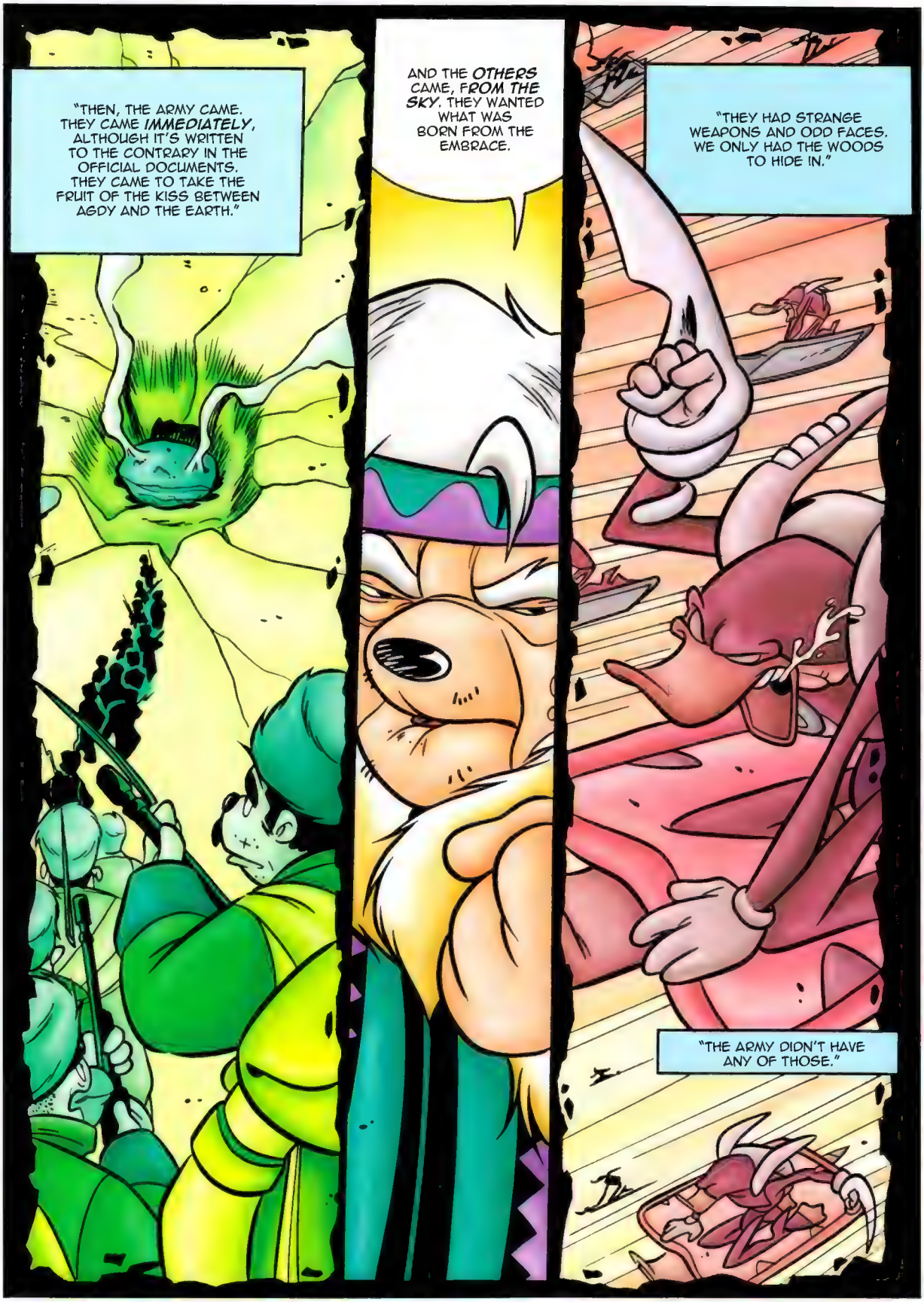
HEAR THAT? WE'RE WAITING FOR YOU!
I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S *WHO* WE'RE WAITING FOR. *HE* HAD A PRIVATE PLANE, AS I RECALL.
THEREFORE, TAKE CAUTION IF THAT THING HAS NO WINGS...
IF IT DOESN'T HAVE WINGS, IT WON'T FLY, BECAUSE THAT WHICH DOESN'T HAVE WINGS, CAN'T BE IN THE SKY.
"IF NOT THE *AGDY!*"
BUT *SMALL*. WE'LL BRING IT DOWN.
WINGS.


UH OH. YOU DIDN'T TELL ME ABOUT THE EVENKS' FABULOUS HOSPITALITY.
RRRRAP
RRRRRAP
BONG
ENG
GET THEM TO RECOGNIZE YOU!
LIKE OPEN THE WINDOW, STICK MY HEAD OUT AND SLIP THEM A VISITING CARD?
SWING
THAT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE A GOOD IDEA NOW. BUT THEY CERTAINLY HAVE NICE CLAIMS...
THERE'S ONE WHO'S TRYING TO TAKE ME DOWN WITH... A SLINGSHOT?!
DON'T WASTE THE SHOT, DAVIDOFF!
MMM...

SMASH
ARGH!
THUMP
EVERYTHING'S DARK, DARK, DARK.
NICE SHOT, DAVIDOFF!
LET'S GET HIM TO ILIJA.
R-RIGHT AWAY.

SHORTLY AFTER...
WAKE UP, DUCK.
A-ALREADY? I NEED SOME T-TIME.
THERE IS NONE. I OFFER MY APOLOGIES. ME AND MY BOYS EXPECTED *SOMEONE ELSE*. BUT I SAW THAT THE MACHINE YOU ARRIVED WITH BEARS HIS *MARK*.
AHA.
ARE YOU THE EMISSARY OF EVERETT?
LET'S PUT IT THAT WAY. BUT I MUST CONFESS THAT I DON'T EXACTLY KNOW *WHY* I'M HERE...
HE'LL KNOW WHY. OR HIS *PHANTOM* COMPANION, WHO LIVES IN THE *SPHERE!*
HE HE! *ONE* LIKED THAT, AS A *PORTRAIT?*
NO, I BELIEVE THAT EVEN THE PHANTOM KNOWS LITTLE. AS FOR EVERETT, HE'S FAR AWAY.
THEN I MUST TELL YOU A STORY. LISTEN.
LISTEN, I TELL YOU. THE DAYS OF THE AGDY HAVE RETURNED... *THE DAYS OF IRON AND FIRE!*


THE DAYS WHEN THE SON OF THUNDER LEAVES THE FATHER AND VISITS AND VISITS THE EARTH!
TSK, THAT'S FOR THE SERIES "THE MYSTERIOUS TALES OF THE EXOTIC SHAMAN".
"AND THE KISSES, THE EMBRACES!"
IN 1908, AN AGDY FELL HERE. IT WAS TERRIBLE...
TWO THOUSAND SQUARE KILOMETERS OF DESTRUCTION. I KNOW.
HOW DO YOU KNOW? YOU WEREN'T THERE!
WE WERE THERE. MANY OF US SAW IT. AND SOME SAW NO MORE.

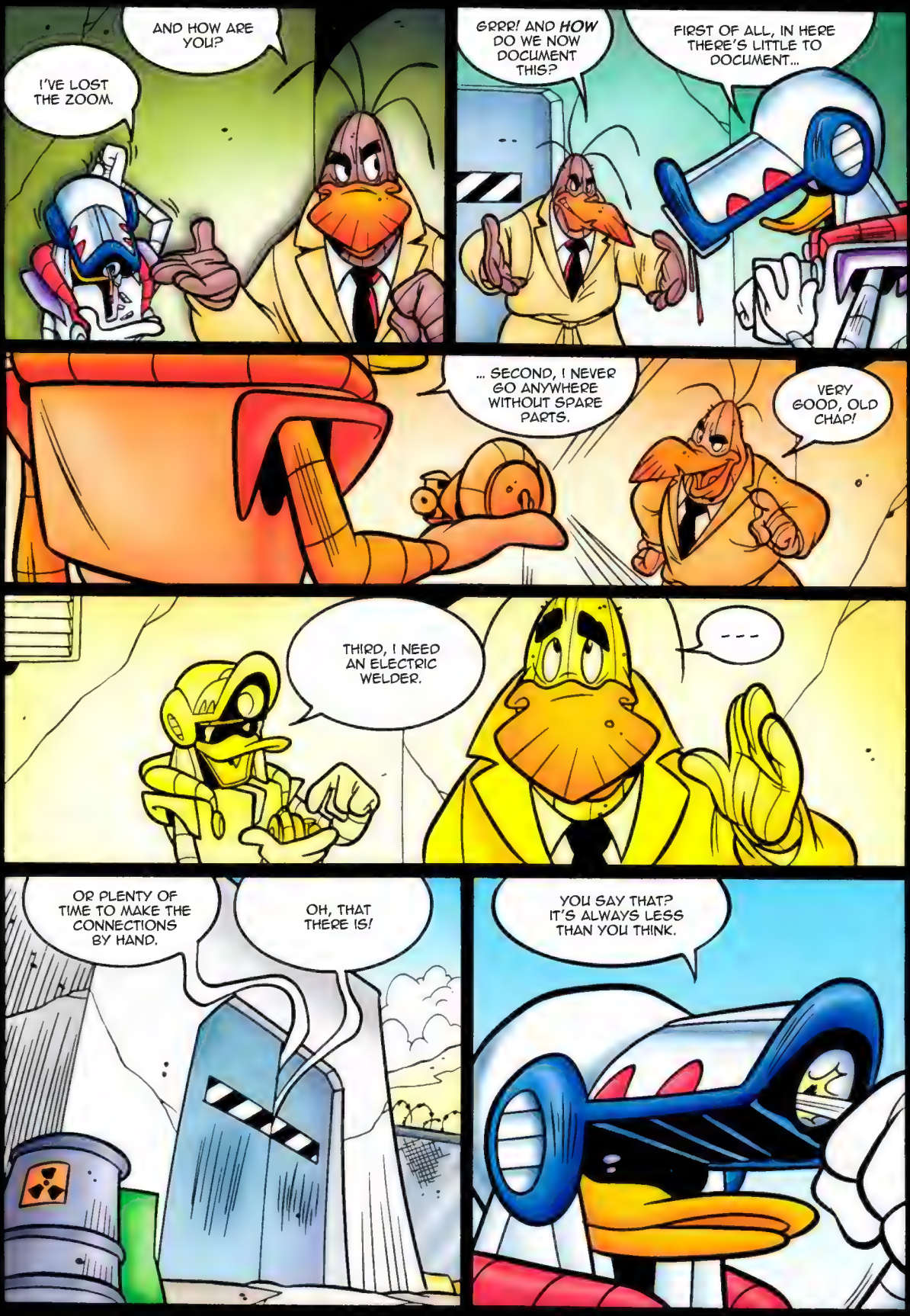

"THEN, THE ARMY CAME. THEY CAME *IMMEDIATELY*, ALTHOUGH IT'S WRITTEN TO THE CONTRARY IN THE OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS. THEY CAME TO TAKE THE FRUIT OF THE KISS BETWEEN AGDY AND THE EARTH."
AND THE *OTHERS* CAME, *FROM THE SKY*. THEY WANTED WHAT WAS BORN FROM THE EMBRACE.
"THEY HAD STRANGE WEAPONS AND ODD FACES. WE ONLY HAD THE WOODS TO HIDE IN."
"THE ARMY DIDN'T HAVE ANY OF THOSE."

"EAAA-VRAAAN, SHOUTED THOSE WHO CAME FROM THE SKY. AND THE SCREAMS OF THE SOLDIERS DIED OUT IN THAT CHOIR!"

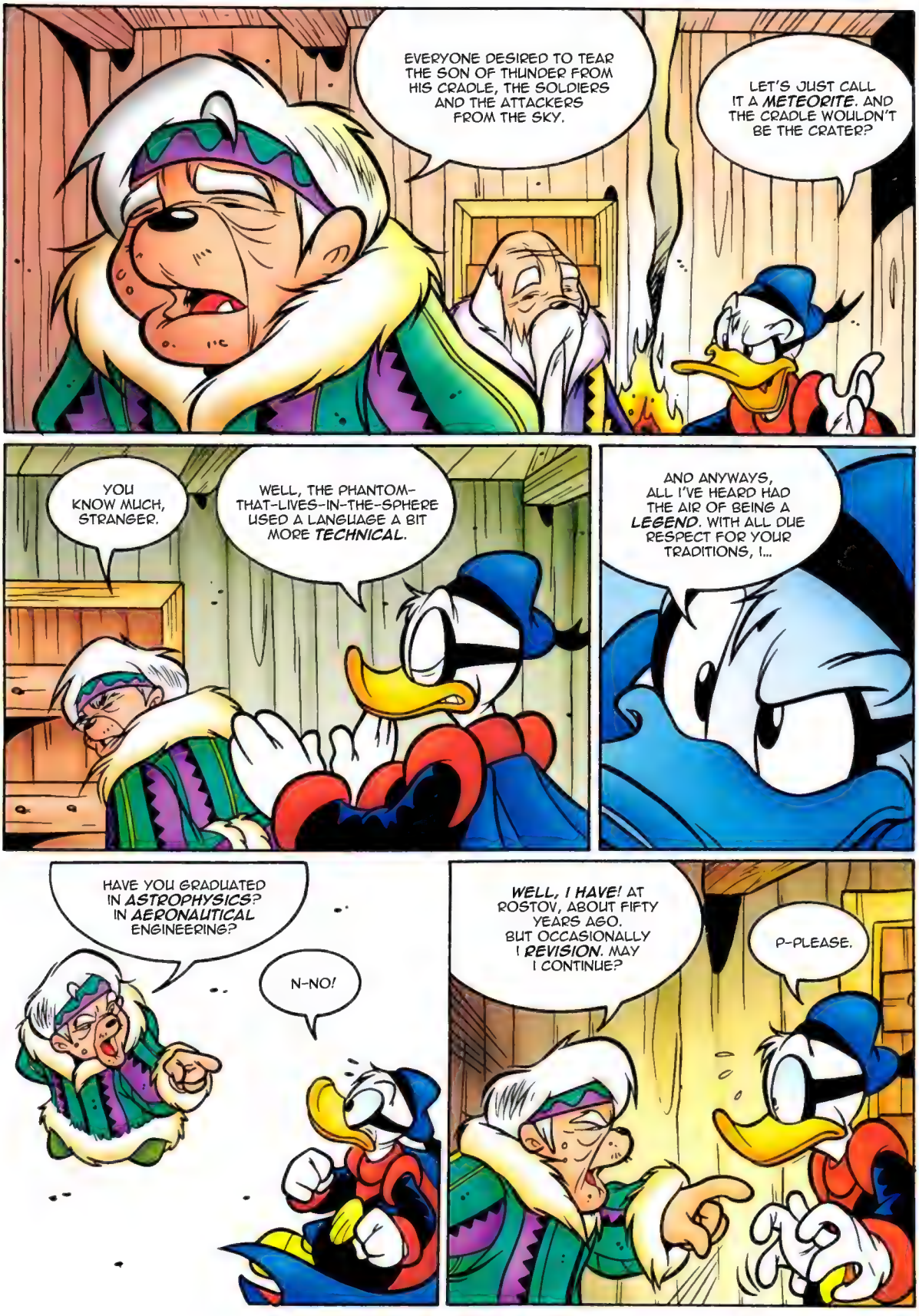
VINTAGE EVRONIANS! INTERESTING... HOW DID IT END? AND WHAT WHERE THEY LOOKING FOR?
WE ASKED WHAT THEY WERE LOOKING FOR!
YOU! AND THATM DIDN'T TAKE US LONG.
A CURIOUS JOKESTER... UNBEARABLE!
TUMP
OUCH!
HEY! I'M A JOURNALIST!
IT WAS ENOUGH TO SAY SO RIGHT AWAY.
SUCK

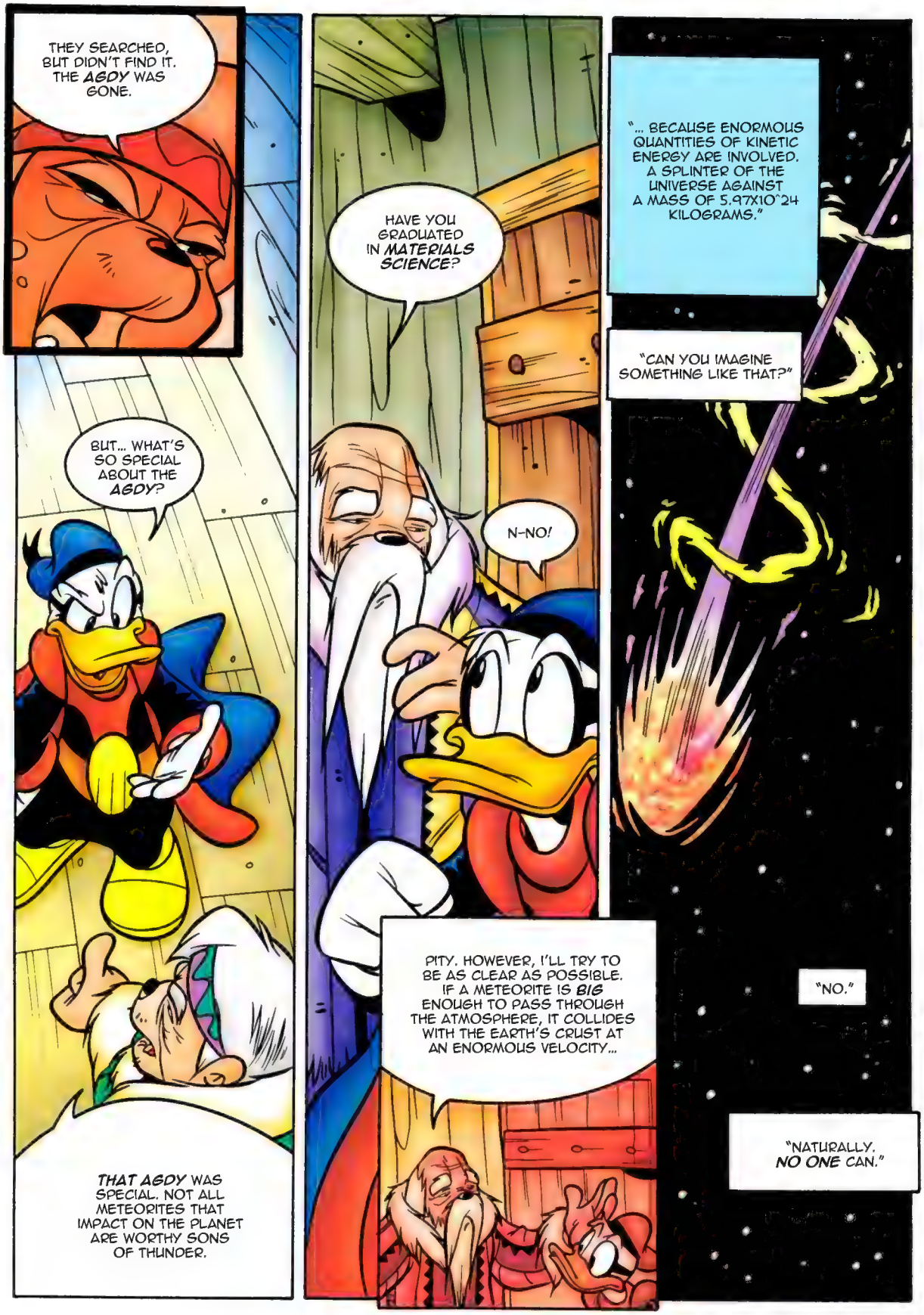
ARE YOU ALSO A JOURNALIST?
MY AUNT DION'T WANT ME TO BE. I'M A CAMERAMAN.
GOOD. TURN IT OFF, THOUGH!
CRUNCH
IT WAS... ALREADY OFF!
YEAH, RIGHT. AND THE PIECES ARE YOURS.
THERE'S NO TIME TO DEAL WITH YOU. TAKE THEM TO THE STORAGE!
YES SIR!
THEY MAY EVEN BE USEFUL, ROGER. CAN YOU IMAGINE? TWO GUINEA PIGS AT NO COST, EXCELLENT FOR VERIFYING IF OUR GUEST HAS ANY SIDE EFFECTS!
B-BUT IT'S DANGEROUS, ROOVER! THE PRESS, TELEVISION! EVERYONE WILL JUMP AT OUR THROATS!
EVERYONE IS A FUNNY LITTLE WORD, IF YOU THINK THAT'LL SOON HAPPEN. I THINK THERE'LL BE ONLY ONE WORD! ME.

INSIDE! YOU'LL BE FINE, YOU'RE ONLY MISSING WATER, TELEVISION, AIR CONDITIONING AND LITTLE ELSE!
LIKE AIR FOR BREATHING.
GONE?
HUH? YES, BUT YOU'RE AWAKE?
FROM THE BEGINNING. BUT I DIDN'T WANT TO LOSE MY ENTIRE FACE!
THEY MIGHT IMPROVE IT...

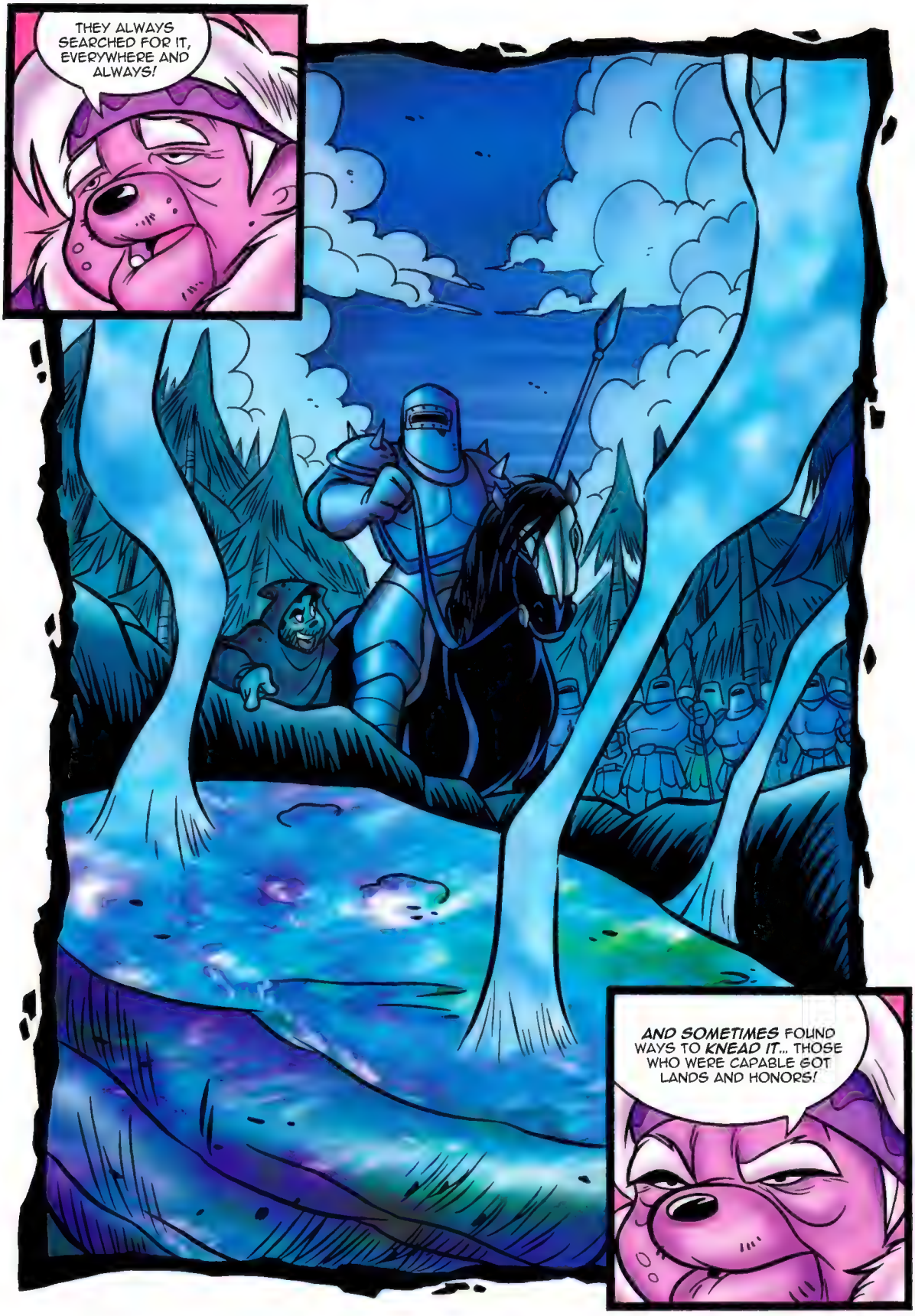

AND HOW ARE YOU?
I'VE LOST THE ZOOM.
GRRR! AND HOW DO WE NOW DOCUMENT THIS?
FIRST OF ALL, IN HERE THERE'S LITTLE TO DOCUMENT...
... SECOND, I NEVER GO ANYWHERE WITHOUT SPARE PARTS.
VERY GOOD, OLD CHAP!
THIRD, I NEED AN ELECTRIC WELDER.

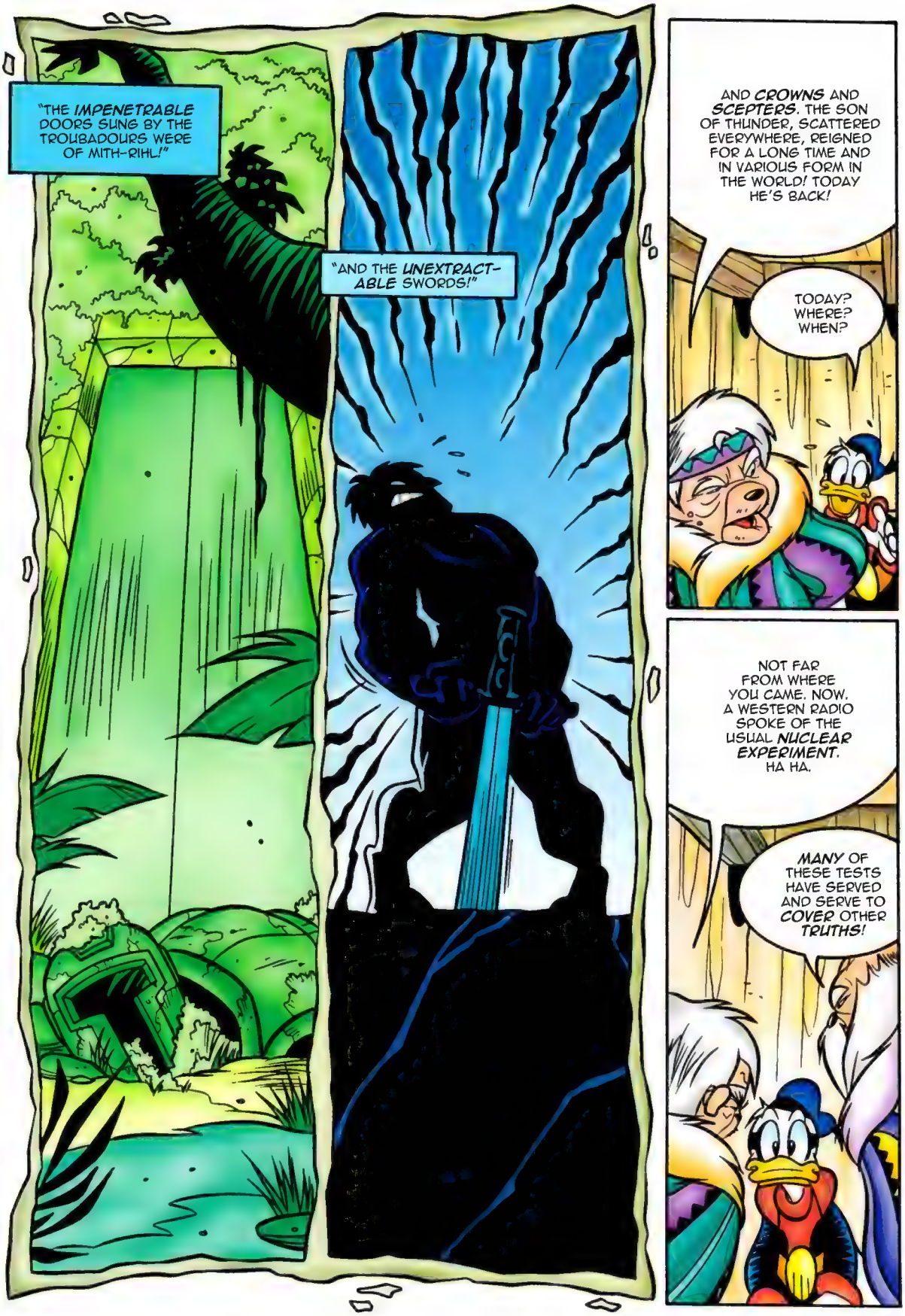
OR PLENTY OF TIME TO MAKE THE CONNECTIONS BY HAND.
OH, THAT THERE IS!
YOU SAY THAT? IT'S ALWAYS LESS THAN YOU THINK.

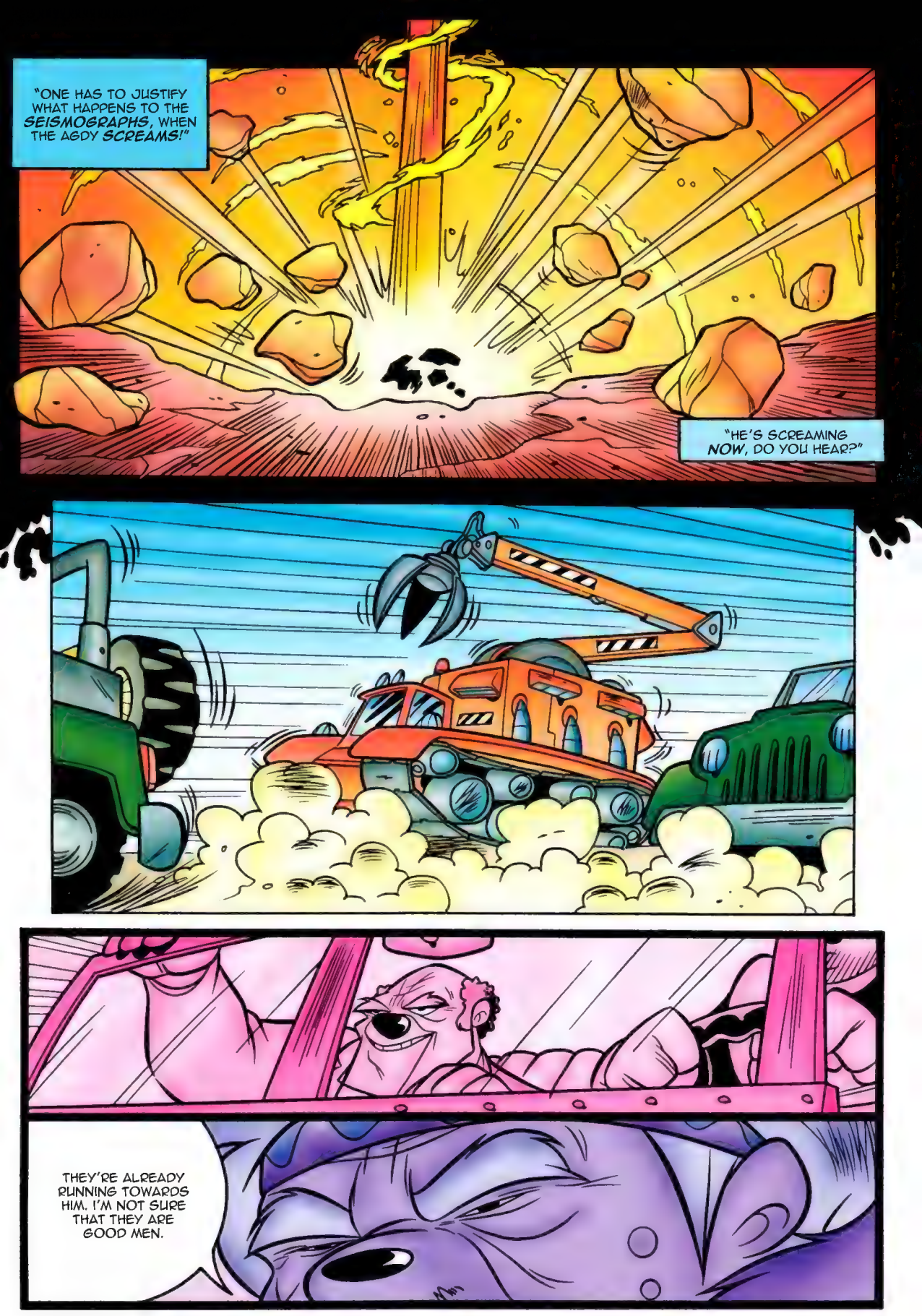

EVERYONE DESIRED TO TEAR THE SON OF THUNDER FROM HIS CRADLE, THE SOLDIERS AND THE ATTACKERS FROM THE SKY.
LET'S JUST CALL IT A METEORITE. AND THE CRADLE WOULDN'T BE THE CRATER?
YOU KNOW MUCH, STRANGER.
WELL, THE PHANTOM-THAT-LIVES-IN-THE-SPHERE USED A LANGUAGE A BIT MORE TECHNICAL.
AND ANYWAYS, ALL I'VE HEARD HAD THE AIR OF BEING A LEGEND. WITH ALL DUE RESPECT FOR YOUR TRADITIONS, I...
HAVE YOU GRADUATED IN ASTROPHYSICS? IN AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERING?
N-NO!
WELL, I HAVE! AT ROSTOV, ABOUT FIFTY YEARS AGO. BUT OCCASIONALLY I REVISION. MAY I CONTINUE?
P-PLEASE.


THEY SEARCHED, BUT DIDN'T FIND IT. THE AGDY WAS GONE.
BUT... WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT THE AGDY?
THAT AGDY WAS SPECIAL. NOT ALL METEORITES THAT IMPACT ON THE PLANET ARE WORTHY SONS OF THUNDER.
HAVE YOU GRADUATED IN MATERIALS SCIENCE?
N-NO!
PITY. HOWEVER, I'LL TRY TO BE AS CLEAR AS POSSIBLE. IF A METEORITE IS BIG ENOUGH TO PASS THROUGH THE ATMOSPHERE, IT COLLIDES WITH THE EARTH'S CRUST AT AN ENORMOUS VELOCITY...
"... BECAUSE ENORMOUS QUANTITIES OF KINETIC ENERGY ARE INVOLVED. A SPLINTER OF THE UNIVERSE AGAINST A MASS OF 5.97X10^24 KILOGRAMS."
"CAN YOU IMAGINE SOMETHING LIKE THAT?"
"NO."
"NATURALLY. NO ONE CAN."

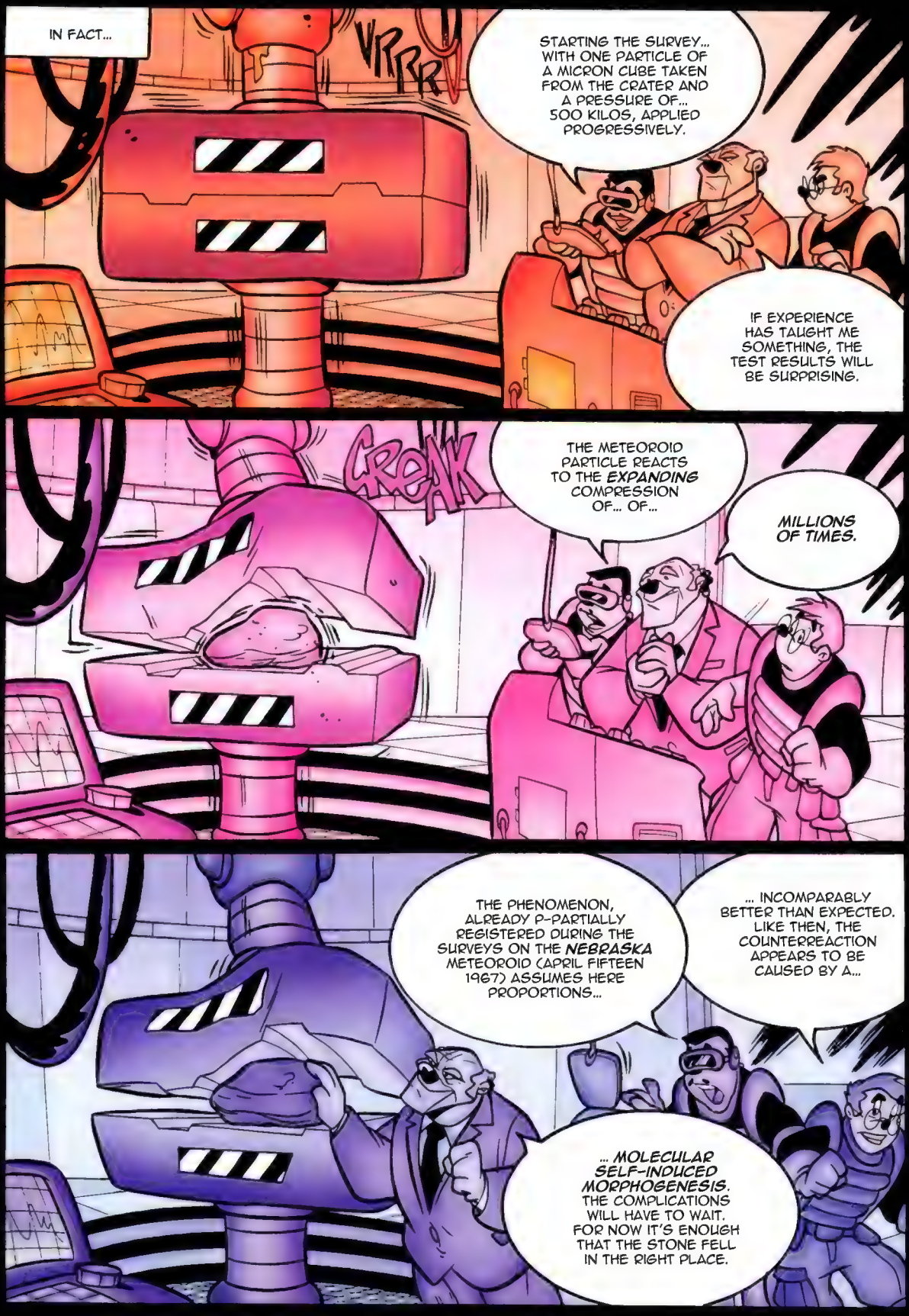
THE IMPACT GENERATES *UNIMAGINABLE* TEMPERATURES AND THE MATERIAL OF WHICH THE METEORITE IS COMPOSED OF *MERGES* WITH MINERALS, TERRESTRIAL ORGANIC SUBSTANCES, THE ATMOSPHERE THAT SURROUNDS IT!
GIVING LIFE TO A *NEW MATERIAL*.
EXACTLY. A SUBSTANCE WITH STRANGE PROPERTIES...
"... THAT CAME FROM BEING OF WATER AND OF EARTH, OF AIR AND OF FIRE..."
"... FROM BEING THE *FIFTH ELEMENT!*"
"THE ANCIENTS CALLED IT *MITH-RIHL*. THEY THOUGHT IT WAS MAGICAL AND WERE CLOSE TO THE TRUTH! THAT IT WAS SOME KIND OF METAL AND EVEN THAT WASN'T FALSE."


THEY ALWAYS SEARCHED FOR IT, EVERYWHERE AND ALWAYS!
AND SOMETIMES FOUND WAYS TO KNEAD IT... THOSE WHO WERE CAPABLE GOT LANDS AND HONORS!

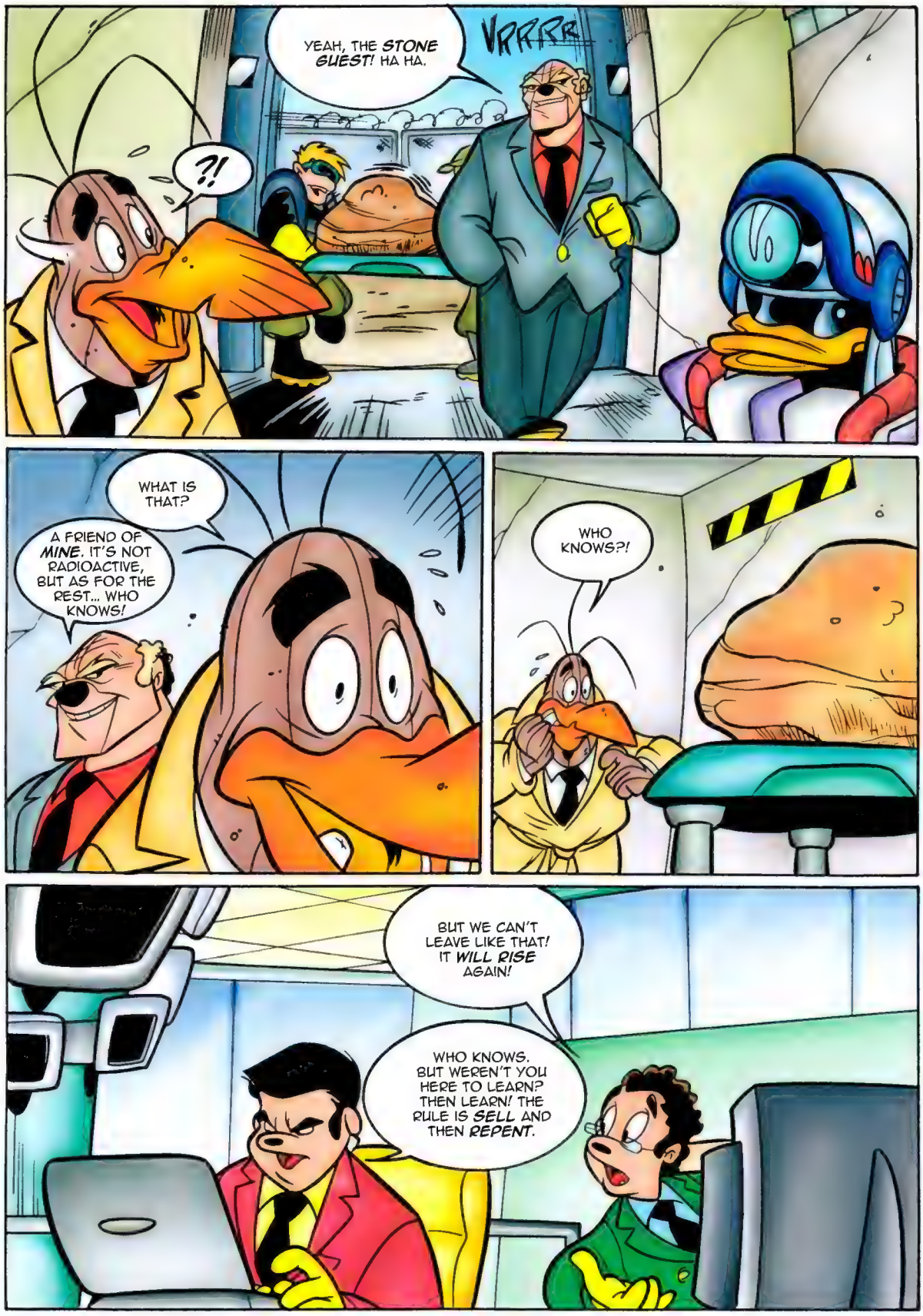

"THE IMPENETRABLE DOORS SUNG BY THE TROUBADOURS WERE OF MITH-RIHL!"
"AND THE UNEXTRACTABLE SWORDS!"
AND CROWNS AND SCEPTERS. THE SON OF THUNDER, SCATTERED EVERYWHERE, REIGNED FOR A LONG TIME AND IN VARIOUS FORM IN THE WORLD! TODAY HE'S BACK!
TODAY? WHERE? WHEN?
NOT FAR FROM WHERE YOU CAME. NOW, A WESTERN RADIO SPOKE OF THE USUAL NUCLEAR EXPERIMENT. HA HA.
MANY OF THESE TESTS HAVE SERVED AND SERVE TO COVER OTHER TRUTHS!

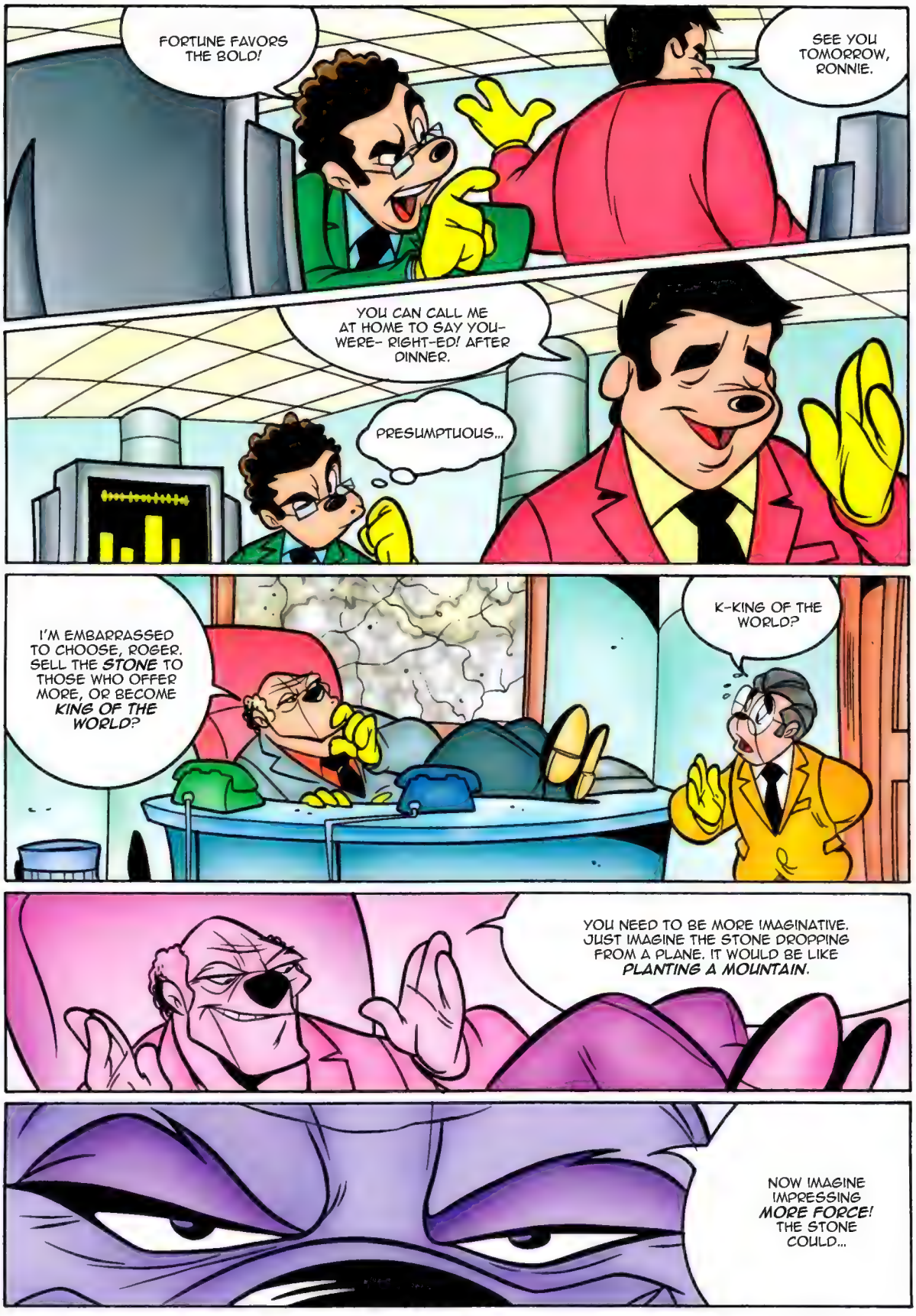

"ONE HAS TO JUSTIFY WHAT HAPPENS TO THE SEISMOGRAPHS, WHEN THE AGDY SCREAMS!"
"HE'S SCREAMING NOW, DO YOU HEAR?"
THEY'RE ALREADY RUNNING TOWARDS HIM. I'M NOT SURE THAT THEY ARE GOOD MEN.

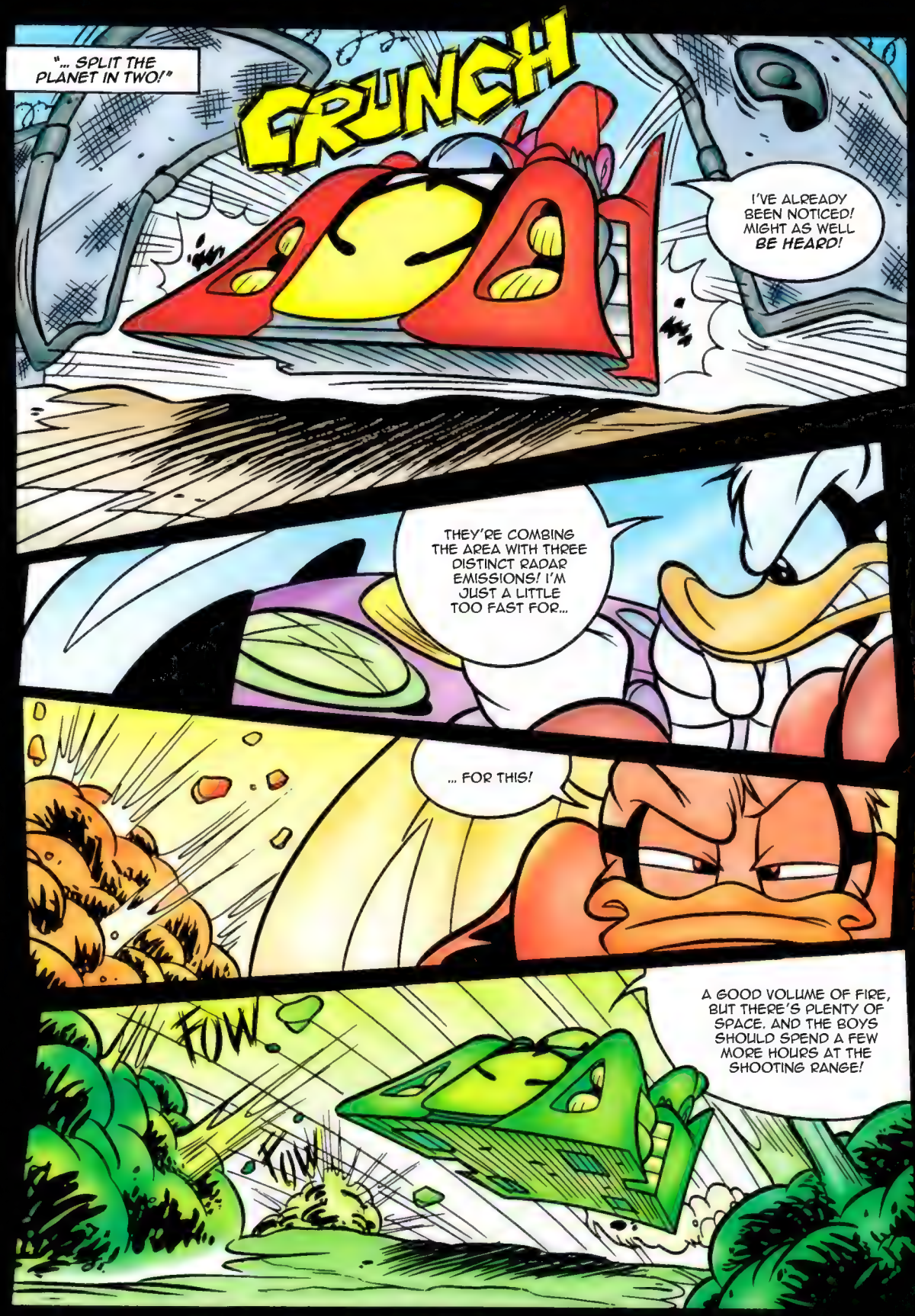
AND GOOD MEN ARE NEEDED BESIDE HIM...
YOU BROUGHT IT HERE?
I DID. I HAVE A MOTORCYCLE.
THE DENSITY IS ENORMOUS, *CAN'T BE EVALUATED* AT THE MOMENT!
THE INSTRUMENTS ARE AT FULL SCALE! THEY REGISTER A FLOW OF...
LATER, LATER. PLEASE LET ME *TASTE IT.*
M-MR. RO-OVER?! IT COULD BE D-DANGEROUS!
HOW MANY OF THESE HAVE YOU SEEN, BOY?
ME, *TWENTY-TWO.* AND IF EXPERIENCE HAS TAUGHT ME SOMETHING, THIS IS THE BEST OF THEM ALL. BRING IT IMMEDIATELY TO THE LABORATORY FOR THE *KINEDYNOMOMETRIC TESTS!*

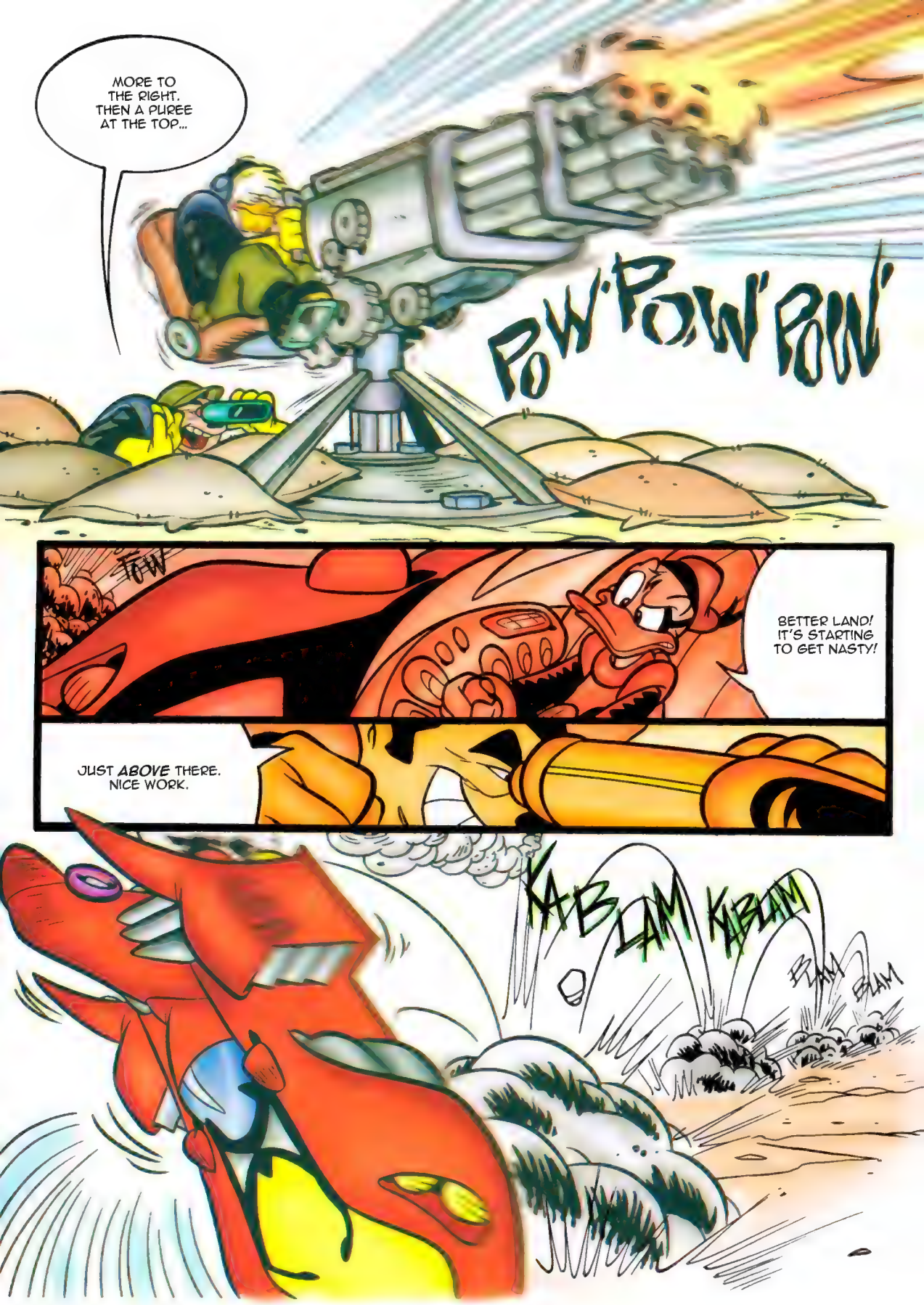

IN FACT...
VRRRR
STARTING THE SURVEY... WITH ONE PARTICLE OF A MICRON CUBE TAKEN FROM THE CRATER AND A PRESSURE OF... 500 KILOS, APPLIED PROGRESSIVELY.
IF EXPERIENCE HAS TAUGHT ME SOMETHING, THE TEST RESULTS WILL BE SURPRISING.
CREAK
THE METEOROID PARTICLE REACTS TO THE EXPANDING COMPRESSION OF... OF...
MILLIONS OF TIMES.
THE PHENOMENON, ALREADY P-PARTIALLY REGISTERED DURING THE SURVEYS ON THE NEBRASKA METEOROID (APRIL FIFTEEN 1967) ASSUMES HERE PROPORTIONS...
... INCOMPARABLY BETTER THAN EXPECTED. LIKE THEN, THE COUNTERREACTION APPEARS TO BE CAUSED BY A...
... MOLECULAR SELF-INDUCED MORPHOGENESIS. THE COMPLICATIONS WILL HAVE TO WAIT. FOR NOW IT'S ENOUGH THAT THE STONE FELL IN THE RIGHT PLACE.

I THINK I UNDERSTAND. IN PRACTICE, THE ENERGY PRODUCED IN THE COLLISION IS SUCH THAT IT EXCEEDS THE CAPACITY OF THE SURROUNDING ABSORBING SPACE.
THE EXPLOSION OVERLAPS AN IMPLOSION, AND THE METEOROID IS SO TO SPEAK FORCED TO STORE AN ENERGETIC SURPLUS.
THAT RELEASES WHEN YOU PUT IT UNDER PRESSURE. FATTENING IT.
THAT BEING SAID, IT'S A BIT COLORFUL, BUT YOU'RE THERE.
NO, I'M NOT. I'M FLYING OVER ALASKA. IS IT LATE?
UH... H-HOW LONG HAVE I SLEPT?
HOURS. AND YOU MAY ALSO CONTINUE, SINCE NOT EVEN THE BANG WOKE YOU UP.
I DREAMT THAT IT WAS NEW YEAR. WHEN I POPPED THE CORK, AN UNEXPECTED GUEST ARRIVED...


YEAH, THE STONE GUEST! HA HA.
VRRRR
?!
WHAT IS THAT?
A FRIEND OF MINE. IT'S NOT RADIOACTIVE, BUT AS FOR THE REST... WHO KNOWS!
WHO KNOWS?!
BUT WE CAN'T LEAVE LIKE THAT! IT WILL RISE AGAIN!
WHO KNOWS. BUT WEREN'T YOU HERE TO LEARN? THEN LEARN! THE RULE IS SELL AND THEN REPENT.

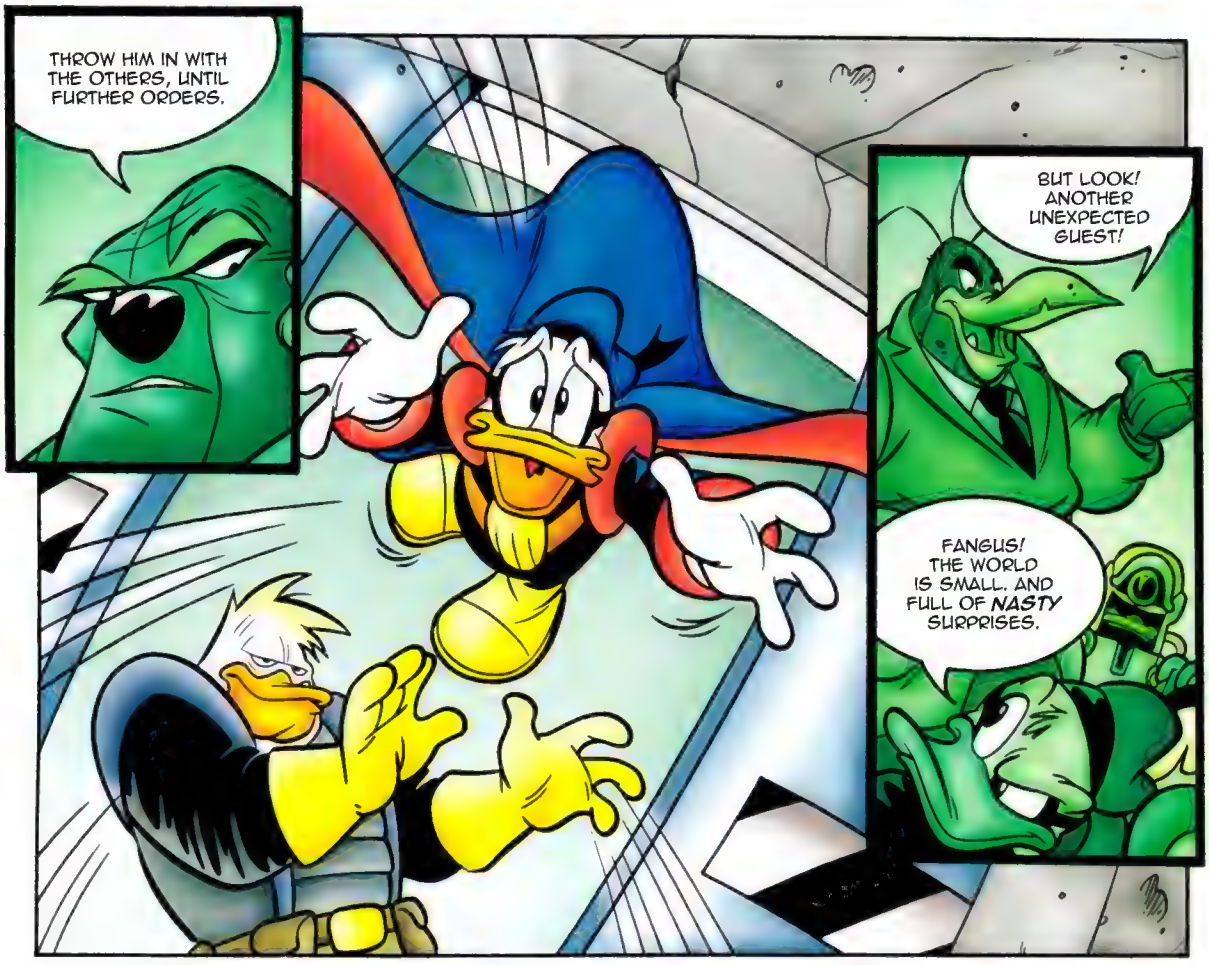

FORTUNE FAVORS THE BOLD!
SEE YOU TOMORROW, RONNIE.
YOU CAN CALL ME AT HOME TO SAY YOU-WERE- RIGHT-ED! AFTER DINNER.
PRESUMPTUOUS...
I'M EMBARRASSED TO CHOOSE, ROGER. SELL THE *STONE* TO THOSE WHO OFFER MORE, OR BECOME *KING OF THE WORLD*?
K-KING OF THE WORLD?
YOU NEED TO BE MORE IMAGINATIVE. JUST IMAGINE THE STONE DROPPING FROM A PLANE. IT WOULD BE LIKE *PLANTING A MOUNTAIN*.
NOW IMAGINE IMPRESSING *MORE FORCE*! THE STONE COULD...


"... SPLIT THE PLANET IN TWO!"
CRUNCH
I'VE ALREADY BEEN NOTICED! MIGHT AS WELL BE HEARD!
THEY'RE COMBING THE AREA WITH THREE DISTINCT RADAR EMISSIONS! I'M JUST A LITTLE TOO FAST FOR...
... FOR THIS!
FOW
FOW
A GOOD VOLUME OF FIRE, BUT THERE'S PLENTY OF SPACE. AND THE BOYS SHOULD SPEND A FEW MORE HOURS AT THE SHOOTING RANGE!


MORE TO THE RIGHT. THEN A PUREE AT THE TOP...
POW POW POW
TOW
BETTER LAND! IT'S STARTING TO GET NASTY!
JUST ABOVE THERE. NICE WORK.
KABLAM KABLAM
BLAM BLAM

FOUR MINES AND NOT EVEN A SCRATCH! WHAT IS THAT VEHICLE MADE OF?
IT'LL BE INTERESTING TO FIND OUT. HOWEVER, EVEN THE DUCK SEEMS DURABLE.
NOT ENOUGH, RIGHT? OR DO YOU WANT TO GET HURT?
THE THIRD CURIOSITY... YOU'RE ALMOST A CROWD! TELL ME, WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?
I WAS TOLD THAT SOMETHING IMPORTANT FELL IN THESE PARTS. SOMETHING THAT HAS TO END UP IN GOOD HANDS.
YEAH. THERE IS. AND THESE ARE THE *HANDS*.
THESE, HOWEVER, ARE CALLED *FEET!*

GRRR!
STOP!
I KNOW THE *TYPE*. HE REQUIRES CAREFUL TREATMENT, AND NOW THERE'S NO TIME.


THROW HIM IN WITH THE OTHERS, UNTIL FURTHER ORDERS.
BUT LOOK! ANOTHER UNEXPECTED GUEST!
FANGUS! THE WORLD IS SMALL, AND FULL OF *NASTY* SURPRISES.

HURRAY! THE HERO HAS ARRIVED! WE'RE RIDING!
CLAP CLAP
YOU'RE PERCEPTIVE, ANGUS. THERE IS IN FACT A HORSE. STUFFED, TOO. DO YOU KNOW ULYSSES? TROY?
G-GO SLOW, THOUGH.
IT'S NOT THE CASE.
REMEMBER WHAT THE DUCK SAID. IF NEEDED, PRESS THE RED BUTTON!

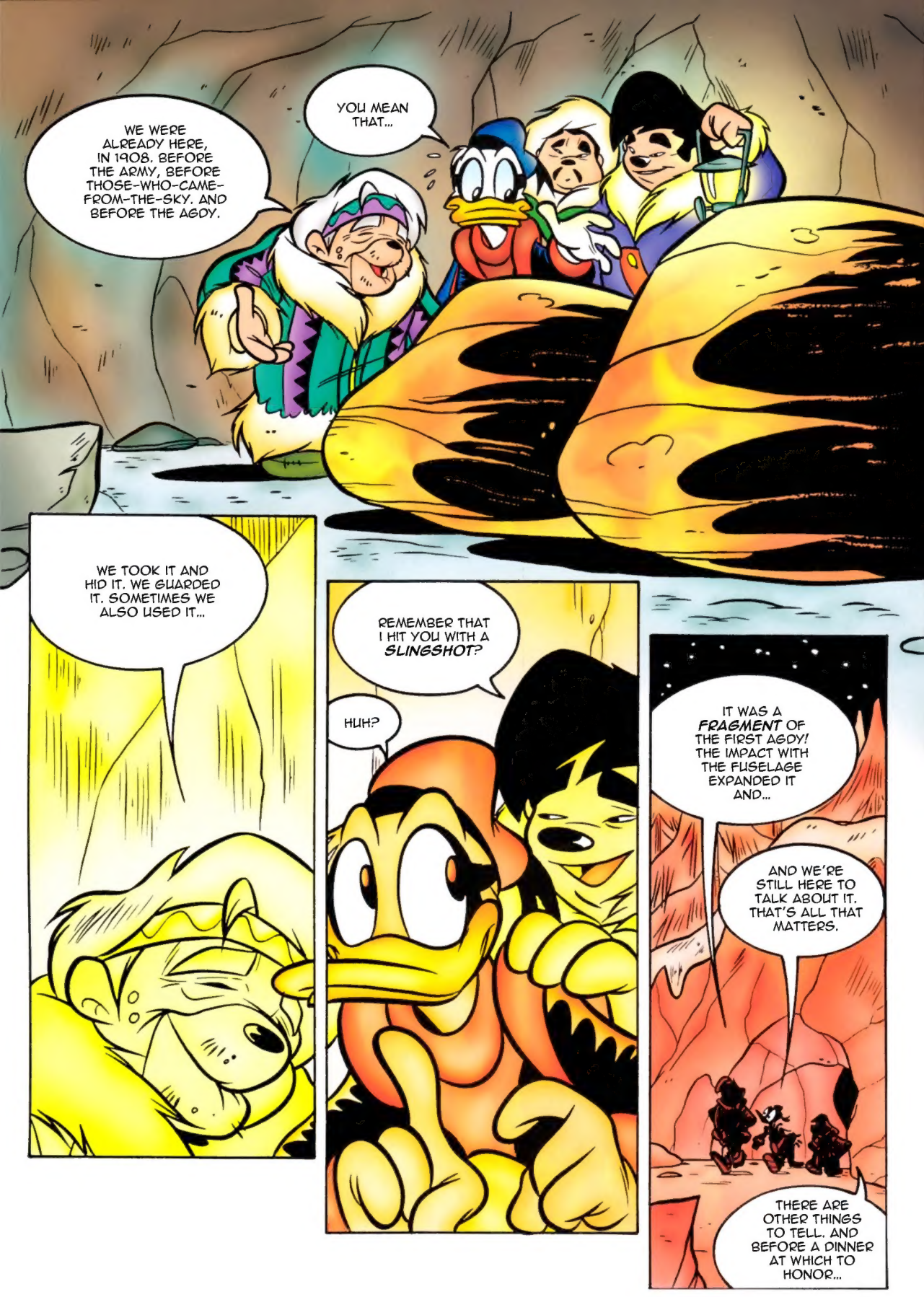
WHOOAM
ANOTHER ONE FELL!
"WHOOAM"?! I SAID YELLOW BUTTON!
WHAM!
WHOOOM
GET DOWN!
SHOOT!
SKRANNNK
THE COACH-BUILDER WILL PUT HIS HANDS IN HIS HAIR...

YELLOW BUTTON, BOYS! YELLOW!
CRASH BWANG BWANG
YOU'RE FILMING, RIGHT?
YOU!
STEP AWAY FROM THE STONE!
POW POW
WHY, WHAT IF I HIDE BEHIND IT INSTEAD?
N-NO! G-GET AWAY!

GE... OOOF!
STUD
DOCUMENT THIS TOO!
FIRST EVENING, SHARE OF SEVENTY... NO, EIGHTY PERCENT!
IF YOU TURN AROUND, YOU'LL SEE SOMETHING OF NINETY... NO, A HUNDRED PERCENT. EVEN DURING THE RERUNS!
IS IT IN?
IS IT IN?
A-ALMOST...
ALMOST!

OKAY! WE'RE LEAVING, GREEN BUTTON! GREEN!
I HEARD!
FWOOSH!
INTERESTING. HE'S LEAVING WITH THE STONE. WHO KNOWS WHERE, WHO KNOWS WITH WHO, WHO KNOWS WHY...
SO MANY NICE THINGS TO INVENT, EH, ANGUS?
I PREDICT COLLAPSES, WHEN THE STORY COMES OUT!
IT'S FALLING DOWNWARDS, ED! YOU WERE RIGHT, ED!

SIBERIA.
SILENCE.
IT ARRIVES.
AHA. A CAVE. A GOOD HIDING PLACE, FOR THE HOT STONE.
YES. THE AGDY'S NOT ALONE HERE.
UH HUH. GOOD MEN WILL WATCH OVER HIM...
NO. HE WON'T BE ALONE BECAUSE THERE'LL BE TWO! THE FIRST AGDY, AND THE NEW.
?!


WE WERE ALREADY HERE, IN 1908. BEFORE THE ARMY, BEFORE THOSE-WHO-CAME-FROM-THE-SKY. AND BEFORE THE AGDY.
YOU MEAN THAT...
WE TOOK IT AND HID IT. WE GUARDED IT. SOMETIMES WE ALSO USED IT...
REMEMBER THAT I HIT YOU WITH A SLINGSHOT?
HUH?
IT WAS A FRAGMENT OF THE FIRST AGDY! THE IMPACT WITH THE FUSELAGE EXPANDED IT AND...
AND WE'RE STILL HERE TO TALK ABOUT IT. THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERS.
THERE ARE OTHER THINGS TO TELL. AND BEFORE A DINNER AT WHICH TO HONOR...

IT'S HORRENDOUS, CLEANING IN THE STOCK MARKET! IF I THINK OF ALL THE MONEY THAT HAS PASSED THROUGH HERE AND MY SALARY, I WANT TO CRY.
THERE ARE OTHER THINGS BESIDES MONEY, BRETT.
AH, YES? NAME ONE AND I'LL PAY YOU!
WELL... LOOK AT THE SKY, FOR EXAMPLE. IT'S FREE.
FINE

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